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THE EDITOR'S BOX

The New Administration:

The inauguration of Herbert Hoover as President of the United States is another instance of the elevation of a man qualified to meet recognized new and peculiar conditions in the country.

While editors and press correspondents are having much to say of the 'Hoover era', it seems more nearly correct to consider that a new order of things had already arrived and the new President is the one best qualified to furnish constructive leadership at the time. Just how the period shall be designated or referred to is a matter of no great importance. It is important, however, that the law makers and citizens and voters generally appreciate the fact that most of our laws respecting commerce were written before the advent of mass production and large operating units for utilities.

President Coolidge wisely insisted that time should be given for administration to catch up with legislation. Nevertheless there were a number of efforts during his term to make laws to aid agriculture. That the essential features of such proposals were not sound or likely to produce the results desired is now widely recognized. President Hoover has repeatedly shown that the great need of the times is readjustment of business, and particularly of agriculture to the new economic era.

Economics and Business:

Although not a professed economist, the President qualifies highly from his successful experience in business and wide knowledge of all kinds of commerce in many parts of the world. In more homely terms, he is a business man and capable of giving the country a business administration. He recognizes the importance of right economic or business conditions as a basis for human welfare and social progress. In his view it is not the function of government to take over the execution of business that can be performed more effectively and economic-

ally under private enterprise, whether of individuals, organizations, or corporations. There is no room for what his predecessor referred to as "masses of ponderously futile bureaucratic paraphernalia." Rather, the government should, first, not restrict needed action by business itself, and then should aid and facilitate progress by formulation of plans and educational work, bringing public funds or bureaus into action only so far as is necessary to do what cannot be performed without them.

Tariff and Business:

Never before have the American people been so strongly in favor of maintaining standards of wages and living in all domestic industries. This means equalization of selling prices in our own markets between supplies of domestic and of imported commodities.

With so general an approval of applying the principle of protection to the crops and animal products of which there is not a domestic surplus, the passage of a new or revised tariff law would not seem, at first sight, to involve serious difficulty. Adequate duties upon manufactured products produced in American factories from home-grown materials would seem to be no less reasonable and readily approved. The supplying of our markets with production of underpaid foreign factory employees means unemployment for our own factory employees engaged in the processing of material such as wool, and in turn injures the market of those producing that material.

Autos and Foreign Food:

Automobile manufacturers in this country want export business. South American countries, notably Argentine, must import their cars and say they will take them from the United States, if we will give free access to our markets for their exports, which are principally meat and grain. "We buy from those who buy

from us" is the announcement from our southern neighbors.

Then there is action from interests representing American capital invested in foreign factories and wishing to have that production enter our markets, either free or under very low duties, as a means of returning the capital and its earnings.

Triangular Exchange:

To meet these considerations the President has many times advanced the idea that international payments for goods or products are not necessarily made by direct exchanges. Under the plan of triangular exchange, which he so often has set forth, Argentina would sell her meat and grain in Europe and use the exchange so obtained to pay for American cars. This country could receive the money from Europe or divert it to Brazil to pay for our coffee imports. The insistence of some countries upon selling to America before they will buy from us does not seem to be so much because of actual business difficulties as because of an extreme desire to have access to our attractive markets.

Tariff for Agriculture:

As it is attempted to have the question presented, the choice of our government would be between the protection and prosperity of those engaged in agriculture and the building up of export business in automobiles or other manufactures. Many countries, and to some extent the United States, in the past have sacrificed their farmers to advance factory industry. President Hoover does not belong to the school that subscribes to such a policy. He has expounded the doctrine, as no other President or public man has done, that a permanent and prosperous agriculture is just as vitally important to the economic future and welfare of our country as is any other form of industry. He will not sacrifice agriculture in tariff trading nor fail to have the government do all that it properly can do to stabilize those branches of agriculture in which stability cannot be obtained through protective tariffs. In this respect he is the leader and chief exponent of a new conception of the place of agriculture in national prosperity and progress. And in

CALENDAR

California Ram Sale, Davis, Calif.—
May 21, 22, 23, 1929.

National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City—
August 26, 27, 28, 29, 1929.

no degree can he be considered as indifferent to, or inconsiderate of other industries or interests. The policy is to have the government give such help and direction as may be needed to enable farmers to achieve for themselves the condition that will make their occupation fairly remunerative and attractive to young citizens fitted for rural industry.

The Special Session:

Although the Ways and Means Committee of the House had anticipated the call for Congress to meet in April, and had concluded its public hearings upon the tariff law, it now announces that the form of tariff revision which it will propose will not be ready for publication until April 20, some days after the opening of the session. The committee has made no announcements or decision on changes in any of the schedules. The sixteen per cent increase in wool duties, the higher rates on rags and wastes, and the improvements in classifying and appraising of wool imports, as recommended by the wool growers, are all matters of real importance and completely justifiable in a national program.

House leaders expect to pass the tariff bill early in May with the plan of allowing two months for consideration by the Senate and in conference and passage by July. When the committees have determined upon their action upon broad question of policy that affect all the schedules, then the adjustment of rates for various commodities various schedules should readily be completed.

President Hagenbarth discussed western affairs last month with the President-elect and will be in Washington again prior to the convening of the new Congress.

NEVADA LOSES GRAZING FEE APPEAL

Notice of his dismissal of the Nevada appeal on forest grazing fees was given by Secretary Jardine on January 22.

Early last year the Nevada Land and Live Stock Association, through Secretary Metcalf, filed with Secretary Jardine, an appeal from the decision on fees for grazing on Nevada forests, as rendered by the officials of the fourth district of the Forest Service. The dismissal of this appeal will give full effect to the action of the district officers, since such decisions of the Secretary of Agriculture cannot be carried into any court or to any other branch of the government. The federal law relating to national forests gives complete and final powers to the Secretary in the administration of all matters pertaining to the reserved forest areas.

The decision in the forest grazing fee case rendered at Salt Lake City on January 25, 1927, by Secretary Jardine, provided for some readjustments in the scale of fees then approved by him and which carried the alterations recommended by Mr. Casement to be made in the Rachford report of appraisal and proposed fees. Later in 1927, the district officers proposed some minor adjustments of charges in Nevada. These proposals would still have meant material increases over the old scale and the Nevada Association insisted that they were not in accordance with the meaning and intent of the Secretary's official decision and order. The question was argued before the Secretary about a year ago following which the district forest officers were called upon to make further investigation and report upon Nevada fees. These later findings as submitted to Washington last fall reported recent increases in the cost of private grazing leases which under the Rachford system would call for higher fees on the forests. It was recommended, however, that the scale worked out in 1927 should be given effect. Mr. Casement was delegated to make a further study of the Nevada fees and it is understood that it was upon his recommendation that Secretary Jardine closed the matter by placing in effect the scale of charges determined upon by the district officials.

THE BASIS OF 1929 WOOL PRICES

Getting Away From Pre-Shearing Advances—Conditions in Boston and Other Markets—Price Making in the West

Although the relative lack of business in new wools is regarded in some quarters as an abnormal situation, a closer study of the whole question leads to the conclusion that the discontinuance of advance contracting is in reality a move toward more normal and stable conditions which are to the advantage of growers as well as to other interests in the wool industry.

It is true that the present wool situation is quite different from that of one year ago. The difference is not so great at the markets as in the producing sections. It comes mainly through the absence of extensive preshearing contracting of 1929 wools such as was done on the 1928 clip and in previous years.

Pre-Shearing Advances

The custom of the wool dealers in contracting clips in advance of shearing and of making partial payments when contracts were signed has been a common one for several seasons and its discontinuance this year is causing some growers a greater amount of concern than there really is reason for them to experience. It cannot sensibly be considered a normal condition of the wool trade under which speculative operators obligate themselves to pay a specified price and assume the risk of taking delivery of their contracted clips in as good condition as to strength and shrinkage as was anticipated at the time of contracting. The dealer's continued success in such contracting operations manifestly can only continue so long as he is able to make his contracts at figures that leave him more than a sporting chance for a profit with the worst that can happen to the market and to his purchased clips between the time of making his contracts and of receiving the wools.

Contracting Unshorn Wool

It is not right to assume, though, that preshearing contracts usually are made at a level of prices in the West that corresponds to Boston quotations at the same time. Occasionally some western prices

are above current Boston figures, but more generally contracts are made at figures that would right then show a dealer's profit if the wools were at the market. The unusual keenness to contract 1928 wools as displayed by dealers supports the idea that such operations in other years had been, to say the least, reasonably remunerative. In some cases they were highly profitable and growers found they had given away several cents per pound which would have gone to reduce production losses or have been added to profits if there was not a loss.

After the western wools of 1928 were contracted the world markets showed some hesitancy in the fine wool branch. English manufacturers strongly opposed the advancing tendency of prices of Merino wools and met with considerable success. The results of this action are still in evidence at London and Australian sales and have affected Boston to some extent. Reports are in circulation to the effect that some Boston dealers took losses on their purchases of last year. Losses, like costs, may be figured in various ways by divergent interests and while there probably were some reverses there are no striking indications that western growers outguesed or outlucked the speculative trade. However, there seems to be a note of caution and conservatism on the buying side of the trade and the cooperation to which the various members were reported as having pledged themselves in December is evidenced in their refraining from early contracting.

Borrowing From Dealers

Some growers, as mentioned above, are inclined to attach too much importance to the absence, or the lateness, of wool contracting activities. A few growers have informed the Wool Grower that they now are in need of the cash advance of one dollar per fleece which they secured in winter months for several years. This condition, whether it be general or not, calls for examination of the financial service available to such growers as have ex-

pressed the feeling referred to. In a large part of the wool growing territory of western states winter conditions have been unusually severe. Extensive losses have been prevented only by heavy expenditures of borrowed money for hay, grain, and other feeds. Undoubtedly there are cases in which local bankers, either because of shortage of resources, or through lack of confidence in their clients and their industry, are showing uneasiness and thereby helping to create a condition that would cause wools to be sold at times and at prices suggested by supposed necessity and not on the basis of conservative judgment of real wool values and the general trade conditions.

Growers who may be to any degree embarrassed by not having received advance money on their 1929 clips have serious need for examining their own financial position or the resources and attitude of their bankers. While the past winter has been a severe and expensive one, yet such conditions are a normal hazard of the sheep business. They must be expected and provided for in any safely managed sheep raising enterprise. If the grower's equity in his business is so small that his credit is strained because of the extra expense for feed in such a winter then he is taking much larger chances than are justifiable. If his banker is unable to furnish needed operating money because of limited capital, then the grower needs connection with a larger and stronger bank. If the banker is so timid over the possible effects of an old-fashioned winter, or so poorly informed as to wool markets as to want to hurry his clients into forcing their wools into dealers' hands at unreasonably low prices, then again that grower needs either a better banking connection or a realization of the fact that he is undertaking to run too large a business for his capital. It cannot be considered to be sound business to rely upon the use of wool dealing concerns for financial service that is not available in the community in which the business is conducted. The making of sales

with the principal object of securing a loan is not conducive to the intelligent or reasonable establishment of prices. It will be far better for growers to keep their financial affairs within their home states and to meet the wool trade only on the basis of agreeing upon prices that are fair in the light of the quality of what is offered for sale and the conditions of the markets in which manufacturers obtain their supplies.

The Market Situation

The following comparison of Boston quotations upon eight principal grades of Territory wool in the last two years shows that while fine grades are a little lower than they were last year, the crossbred wools are in a stronger position.

Prices in 1928 and 1929 for Territory Grades of Wool as Reported from Boston by the U. S. Department of Agriculture

Grade	Price (Scoured) March 1 1928	1929
Fine Combing (64s and up)	\$1.15-\$1.18	\$1.07-\$1.10
Fine French Combing (64s and up)	1.07- 1.12	1.02- 1.05
Fine-Clothing (64s and up)	1.02- 1.05	.97- 1.00
Half Blood-Combing (58s, 60s)	1.12- 1.15	1.05- 1.07
Three-Eighths Blood Combing (56s)	.97- 1.02	1.00- 1.05
Quarter Blood Combing (48s and 50s)	.88- .93	.92- .95
Low Quarter Blood Combing (46s)	.77- .82	.82- .85
Common and Braids (36s, 40s, and 44s)	.70- .75	.72- .77

Most of the grades are quoted as being a little lower than they were in the fall months. This is not the result of conditions in this country but is a reflection of some changes in foreign markets. English manufacturers appear to be having some difficulty in maintaining their export outlets for goods and have been in a very bearish attitude in the wool market. Their insistence upon lower priced wool has had an effect upon values both in London and Australia, in spite of the fact that mills in France, Italy and Germany are doing fairly well and apparently obtaining some of the foreign cloth business previously enjoyed by British manufacturers.

A healthier condition in the goods trade and improvement in foreign markets are shown from the following excerpt from the wool market report published at Boston in the issue of *The Commercial Bulletin* for March 2:

The American market has been rather irregular this past week. There is a growing belief, perhaps, that the market is low enough to be stable and in view of the rallying tendency of prices in the foreign markets this belief is held the more strongly. And yet, prices have not been on a stabilized basis this week and manufacturers who have been under the necessity of buying wool have found the situation much to their liking.

The healthy position of the piece goods markets is indicated not alone by the report of short supplies in the markets made by the Textile Institute but is also shown by the gain in the proportion of active machinery in January over that of December as revealed in the active-idle machinery report just released by the government.

There is a growing conviction that the market is likely to need all the wool in sight in the American market before the advent of the new domestic clip in quantity, although there is little reason to suppose that prices will advance materially from the present point of the market.

Wool Stocks and Consumption

Although reports have been current as to large volumes of fine wools in dealers' hands, the official report credits them with having only 47 million pounds on December 31, about 7 million pounds more than one year before, and the Boston Transcript reports, on February 28, the sale of 50 per cent of the stock of fine wool held by dealers on January 5.

Twelve and one-half million pounds of fine wools was reported as consumed by manufacturers in January of this year. This was one-third more than for January in 1928, and 7.5 per cent above December, 1928. The total consumption of wool, outside of carpet wools, showed an increase of about 20 per cent over the consumption for the same month in last year. The mills are still having their difficulties but there has been an improvement in their situation.

Imports and Tariff

American imports of wools during the last six months of 1928 were 4 per cent below those of the same part of 1927. In January of this year total imports of wools for clothing amounted to 22 million pounds compared to 10 million in January, 1928. These imports were chiefly of crossbred wool of which the supply was running short in this country and upon which there had been some price changes favorable to buyers in foreign markets.

At present the Boston price of many of the domestic grades is practically at a parity with foreign prices plus the tariff.

Importers have taken advantage of the opportunity to purchase abroad, apparently having consideration for the strong prospect of a rise in the present tariff rate.

Western Price Making

This year, as is usually the case, the prices of the new wools will depend principally upon the position of the growers. While trading at Boston will continue between manufacturers on the one hand, and dealers and importers on the other, Boston quotations will be but a secondary factor in western price making if performances of most other years are repeated. Not that Boston or world values should be ignored, but that the grower's idea of price is so often determined by comparison with last year's sales or what is being paid to neighbors or in other sections. If selling is deferred until shearing time and is then active it will be even more necessary than it has been for several years for growers to understand market conditions. There is nothing in the present situation to justify much lower prices for fine wools than were paid last year for clips of similar quality and there are real possibilities of the development of a stronger situation in coming weeks. In crossbred wools the present quotations and demand are more favorable to growers than one year ago.

It seems certain that more stable conditions will obtain in wool circles and if they shall continue it will be materially to the advantage of both growers and manufacturers. A number of farsighted manufacturers look to the making of their purchases from growers' selling concerns as a means of effecting economy and of producing a greater degree of stability in the market. Up to now the patronage of such concerns has been so limited that the mills could not rely upon them regularly to furnish the volume and variety of supplies needed.

If the shearing season should develop into a time for consignments instead of range selling it should mean a large patronage of the selling agencies that do not speculate in wools but are dependent wholly upon furnishing good selling service and whose energies always are exerted in establishing and maintaining prices that are acceptable to the growers.

NEW CABINET MEMBERS

Unusual interest attaches to President Hoover's selection of men to sit in his cabinet as secretaries of the departments of Agriculture and The Interior.



HON. ARTHUR M. HYDE,
Secretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary of Agriculture will undoubtedly have a great deal to do, both in advising the President and in drafting the plans and legislation through which the administration will undertake to improve the condition and prospects of farmers and livestock raisers. While the Secretary of Agriculture has no direct voice in writing tariff rates, he has the power, which was utilized by former Secretary Jardine, to exclude imports of meats coming from countries having animal diseases that can be transmitted to American flocks and herds through imported animal products. Also, the Agricultural Secretary has complete and unlimited powers over all matters pertaining to the national forests including the grazing of livestock thereon.

The Department of Agriculture now comprises sixteen separate bureaus and services in addition to executive offices immediately attached to the office of the Secretary.

The selection of Arthur M. Hyde of Missouri, as Secretary of Agriculture, was altogether a surprise, though from what

has been printed regarding his experience and personal qualifications, he seems highly fitted to fill the important office in which he has been installed. At fifty-one years of age, he will be the youngest member of the cabinet.

Secretary Hyde was born in Mercer County, Mo., and took his general university and law course at the University of Iowa, starting law practice in Princeton, his home town, in 1900. He was also Mayor of Princeton from 1908 to 1910. In 1915 he moved to Grundy County, Mo., in which county he now is the owner and operator of three farms of considerable size. He was Governor of Missouri from 1921 to 1925, and is reported to have been active in support of the candidacy for president of Governor Frank O. Lowden, although he was not in sympathy with the principal of the equalization fee as it was set up in the various editions of the McNary-Haugen bill.

Affairs of the Department of the Interior are not of first interest to farmers generally, but because of its control of the General Land Office and the Bureau of Reclamation its actions and policies are important to residents upon reclamation projects and to stockmen who make use of the grazing furnished by the unreserved and unappropriated public lands. This public domain area is now slightly under two hundred million acres and is located nearly altogether in the western range states.

President Hoover's selection of his old friend and classmate, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, as Secretary of the Interior does not appear to have been based upon consideration of the activities of that department referred to above. Dr. Wilbur's reputation has been made along educational lines and particularly through his presidency of Stanford University. He has always been a close friend of the President and was associated with him in the food administration as chief of the division of conservation.

Honorable Joseph M. Dixon of Montana has been named as First Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Interior to succeed the Honorable Edward C. Finney, whose services in the department have covered a long period. It

was announced that Assistant Secretary Dixon will have immediate supervision over the Land Office, the Reclamation Bureau and the Geological Survey. These three are the truly western bureaus of the department.



HON. RAY LYMAN WILBUR,
Secretary of Interior

Mr. Dixon is a former member of the United States Senate, and an ex-governor of Montana. Last year he won the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator over C. H. Williams, president of the Montana Wool Growers Association, but was defeated in the election.

The Interior Department includes nine bureaus and commissions. The Bureau of Education is in this department and it has been reported to be the hope of the President, through Secretary Wilbur, to extend the work of the government along educational lines.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAMB WORK

Recent contributions to the lamb promotion work of the National Wool Growers Association have been received from the following breed organizations:

American Cheviot Society, Inc.	\$ 50.00
Continental Dorset Club	75.00
American Rambouillet Sheep Breed- Assn.	200.00
American Shropshire Registry Assn.	200.00
American Hampshire Sheep Assn.	500.00

The Importance of Shrinkage in Determining Wool Values

By J. F. Wilson, University of California

With the approach of the annual shearing season, wool growers the country over are asking, "How much is wool worth?" When this oft-repeated question is asked, the grower has just one thing in mind and that is the value of wool in the grease. Few men realize that it is utterly impossible to answer intelligently the question they ask without knowing several facts about the particular lot of wool in question.

Leaving aside the length of staple, strength, grade, color, character, and several other things which affect values of wool, let us consider the importance of the chief factor involved in grease wool values—shrinkage.

Shrinkage is the loss in weight which occurs when wool is scoured. For convenience it is expressed in percentage. Thus if a certain lot of wool weighed 100 pounds in the grease and only 34 pounds after it has been scoured, the shrinkage or loss in scouring would be 66 pounds, or 66 per cent of the original grease weight. And because the 100 pounds of grease wool yielded 34 pounds of scoured wool, the 34 pounds is called the yield. Shrinkage then is the opposite of yield. Shrinkage is the percentage of loss in scouring, and yield is the percentage of the original weight that is left. Together they make up the total grease weight of the wool, or 100 per cent of it.

Thus if a certain lot of wool shrinks 64 per cent, the yield is 100 per cent less 64 per cent, or 36 per cent. And that leads us to the rule which must be followed in calculating grease values of wool: 100 per cent minus shrinkage equals yield.

Now let us take a current market quotation on a certain grade of wool and see how to apply the above rule. The government market report (it's free of charge) says that "Territory 64s; 70s, strictly combing is worth this week about \$1.08 a pound, clean, delivered at the mill, or

in other words in Boston. The government cannot tell how much Territory combing is worth in the grease in Boston because the shrinkage varies so much in the western states that quotations must be made on a scoured basis. Let us assume that we have a clip which is all fine combing and the shrinkage is estimated at 65 per cent. If that wool is going to shrink 65 per cent, then only 35 per cent of the original weight will be left after scouring, and the grease value, delivered at the mill, will be 35 per cent of \$1.08, or 37.8 cents a pound.

Remember that this price, 37.8 cents is what the grower might get for the wool if he sold it directly to a mill and delivered it, all of the grade mentioned. So we must take out about 5 cents a pound for freight, storage, insurance, handling charges, profits and commissions, and that leaves 32.8 cents a pound as the approximate grease value on the ranch of fine combing wool shrinking 65 per cent.

Now that that's all clear in everybody's mind, let's see what the grease value would be for a similar lot, if the shrinkage was only 63 per cent instead of 65. If the shrinkage is 63, the yield is 100 per cent minus 63 or 37 per cent, and the grease value in Boston would be 37 per cent of \$1.08 or 39.9 cents, or about 40 cents a pound. Again subtracting 5 cents, we have 35 cents as the approximate ranch value. In other words a difference of 2 per cent in shrinkage makes a difference of over 2 cents a pound in grease values. Some difference.

Just to illustrate how big a difference shrinkage can make in grease values, the writer of this article recently scoured some fleeces of fine combing wool in the wool laboratory of the University of California. These fleeces were grown under different conditions in widely separated parts of California. One of them, No. 1, was grown by a breeder of registered sheep in the Sacramento Valley where shrinkages

are high, the other, No. 2, by a range sheepman in the north coast section where 80 inches of rain a year keeps the wool clean. Look at these figures:

No. of Fleece	Grade	Shrinkage Per Cent	Yield Per Cent	Scoured Value	Grease Value On Ranch
1	Fine Combing	71.8	28.2	\$1.08	25.4c
2	Fine Combing	51.5	48.5	1.08	47.4c

The figures given are extreme and probably could happen in no other state than California where any and all climatic conditions can be found. But they illustrate the vast importance of shrinkage in arriving at grease value.

Wool growers cannot estimate shrinkage accurately. They do not have the time to learn how to do it, because it takes years of practice. Wool merchants, and manufacturers, through experience, are able to lift the fleece, note its condition, grade, and heft, and tell with a fair degree of accuracy about how much grease and dirt are present. This puts the grower in a bad way. If a buyer tells him that his clip will shrink 67 per cent, he is not in a position to deny it, and therein rests the reason why many growers of really good, light shrinking clips are losing money by selling at the nearly flat rates established in each section by buyers. How then, is the grower to get around this serious problem? There is only one way to do it: by patronizing some orderly marketing agency which employs a manager who is capable of determining the shrinkage with as much accuracy as the buyer and let that manager make the sale, or at least advise the grower as to values. By so doing, the clip will be sold on its individual merits, and not only shrinkage will be considered, but all of the other factors which go toward establishing prices.

The western range states have shown that many of their growers are not yet ready to adopt a real cooperative marketing plan. But orderly marketing is not necessarily cooperative marketing. A concern which will accept the grower's clip and will make it optional whether

the wool is sold by the grower or the agency, a concern which will, for a small charge, evaluate the grower's clip for him and allow him then to use his own judgment is certainly a semblance of orderly marketing and such a plan would be patronized by growers. It is being tried out now in California. It merits the consideration of sheepmen all over the West.

How much is wool worth? Now you ask one.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE PAGEANT

The big event of the year in wool manufacturing circles is the forthcoming pageant of the wool industry scheduled for the week of March 18 at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York. Selections of materials to be displayed either in the piece or in the manufactured garment were made weeks ago by committees; naturally something exceptional may be looked for considering the competition between different mills and manufacturers. A bulletin issued by the Wool Institute, Inc., which is managing the affair, states that all types of woolens and worsteds will be shown, both samples and fancies. Their style significance through the ages will be brought out by a series of stage specialties, with music, lyrics, and dances all created for the occasion. In addition, fashion shows will display, twice daily, the new modes in wool garments for men, women and children. These shows will be varied from day to day.

The manufacturers have contributed \$90,000 and the spinners \$12,000 towards the pageant, according to recent press statements. It is hoped to raise a total of \$150,000. From such an expenditure, naturally very beneficial results are expected. The industry, of course, will receive a large amount of publicity, and it is likewise thought that greater cooperation between different branches of the industry and a restoration of balance between men's and women's wear fabrics will be secured.

An early announcement of the pageant stated that part of the specialty features would be broadcasted, so perhaps wool growers will have an opportunity to listen in.

THE OUTLOOK FOR 1929

Excerpts from the Report on the Agricultural Outlook for 1929 as Prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

In this report an attempt has been made to bring together facts relating to prospective world-wide and nation-wide supply and demand conditions which will probably be encountered when products of the coming season's operations are ready for market. These statements represent the national viewpoint and, in many instances, must be modified to meet local conditions. All available information regarding each farm product has been carefully studied and all suggestions are based on logical conclusions drawn from these facts.

All statements are designed to aid farmers to make sound plans for the farming year before the time for planting and breeding. They are also designed for the use of those workers in agricultural colleges, experiment stations and extension services who prepare outlook reports for their states or regions.

Sheep and Wool

Supplies of lambs for marketing in the first half of 1929 are slightly larger than a year earlier, and indications are that a larger proportion of western-fed lambs will be marketed after March 1 than last year. Sheep numbers continued to increase during 1928 and the lamb crop this year may show some increase above last year.

Wool production in the United States and in the important foreign producing countries during the 1928-29 season will apparently be about 6 per cent larger than for the 1927-28 season and stocks in the primary markets have been increased. Last season's slightly reduced supplies and active foreign demand this season have strengthened prices for lower grade wools. This season's larger world wool supplies and the declining tendency in foreign prices have not been reflected by a decline in prices of wool in this country.

Active business conditions will continue to help support the lamb and wool market well through 1929, with possible slackening in late 1929 or in 1930. Al-

though increased numbers of sheep in this country have not as yet affected the markets, caution should be used in production plans since present lamb prices cannot be maintained if expansion is continued too rapidly. ***

Lambs

The supply of lambs during the last seven months of 1929 and the early part of 1930 will depend largely on the size of the lamb crop this year. In general, weather conditions during the breeding season, condition of breeding flocks, and feed supplies in most of the western states, were less favorable than last year. It hardly seems likely, therefore, that the number of lambs per 100 ewes will equal that of 1928 in the western states, even with weather as favorable as last year during lambing. However, the increase in breeding ewes will probably result in a lamb crop as large as last year, unless weather conditions during lambing are very unfavorable. Feed and weather conditions in the early lambing area of the Southeast, including Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, have been more favorable than last year and an increased supply from this section is indicated.

Demand for lamb improved steadily throughout 1928 and for the year as a whole averaged somewhat better than for 1927. During the last half of 1928 a 5 per cent increase in the per capita supply of lamb was accompanied by a 2 per cent increase in prices of dressed lamb, thus indicating a considerably stronger demand than in the last half of 1927. The recent improvement may be attributed largely to increased industrial income and to higher prices of poultry, veal and other competing meats.

A strong factor in the lamb situation, especially in the last few years, has been the marked upward trend in the demand for lamb, which has resulted in an increasing per capita and total consumption of lamb at comparatively steady to higher prices.

Active business and other conditions indicate a continued strong demand for lamb during the first half of 1929. A relatively high level of prices for competing meats and population growth will help maintain the present high level of demand but it is possible that the demand in the first half of 1930 may be reduced somewhat from the present high level.***

Wool

Wool prices in this country had a general upward tendency from the middle of 1927 to the middle of 1928, followed by a decline with some recovery toward the end of the year. At the close of 1928, prices of most grades of domestic wools were well above those of the year previous. Prices of 64s-70s (fine) strictly combing wools however, were slightly lower. ***

Reduced consumption of foreign wools was reflected by the small imports of combing and clothing wool for the first eleven months of 1928. Those imports totaled 84,000,000 pounds as compared with 113,000,000 pounds for the same period in 1927 and 162,000,000 pounds for the 5-year average January-November, 1923-1927.

Wool production exclusive of pulled wool in the United States has steadily increased during the last six years, being 296,000,000 pounds in 1928, as compared with 278,000,000 pounds in 1927 and 222,000,000 in 1922.

The general price situation abroad while still firm on some grades is somewhat weaker than a year ago. Demand continued strong throughout 1928. At the beginning of 1928, prices abroad were maintained by light supplies, by the economic improvement on the Continent, and by the strong demand from Japan. At the end of the year, however, prices of nearly all grades above 56s at London were several cents below those a year ago. Prices of a few low grades were slightly higher.

Wool production in ten countries which produce a little over two-thirds of the world's wool is estimated at 2,520,000,000 pounds for 1928-29, an increase of 6 per cent over 1927-28 and 5 per cent over 1926-27. All of the important wool-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere showed increases over 1927. Apparently sheep numbers at the beginning

of 1929 will show an increase in this latter group of countries since recent lambing conditions were much better than they were in the preceding year when most of these countries were suffering from prolonged drought.

The outlook for the sheep industry in this country during the next few years indicates the need for due caution in regard to continued expansion. The last low point in sheep numbers was reached in 1922. There has since been considerable expansion in flock numbers and this expansion is continuing. During recent years the effect of increased slaughter has been largely offset by the upward trend in the consumer demand for lamb, with the result that lamb prices have been on a comparatively high level for several years.

Holding back lambs in order to expand flock numbers has restricted slaughter during the past few years. When this tendency ceases it is to be expected that the yearly increase in flock numbers during recent years will go to increase supplies of sheep and lambs for slaughter. If this should come at a time when demand conditions are less favorable, it is hardly likely that the market can absorb the additional supply without a considerable reduction in price.

SHORTAGE IN EARLY LAMB CROP

A reduction in yields of lambs in the principal early lambing states is reported by the United States Department of Agriculture for this year. The report states that the total supply of spring lambs at eastern and mid-western markets before July 1 of this year will "probably be smaller than last year and may be considerably below last year unless there is an early improvement in feed and weather conditions in the Pacific Coast states and Idaho".

A similar report of last year showed a total of 3,746,000 early lambs which was 22 per cent of the annual lamb crop of the western states. Of this total California had 1,683,000, Idaho 1,056,000, Oregon 457,000, Washington 177,000, and Arizona 140,000.

Of California the report states the 1929 early lamb crop is from 5 to 10 per cent larger than in 1928, but weather and

feed conditions have not been favorable for a normal development of lambs. In Arizona the crop was considerably smaller than one year ago. In Idaho, Oregon, and Washington the mortality of early lambs to March 1 was much above the average. Although there was an increased number of ewes bred for early lambing, it hardly seems probable that the number of early lambs in these states will equal the number last year. The other states listed as having early lamb crops are Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. In Tennessee the early crop is 5 per cent larger and in Kentucky the increase is 6 or 7 per cent.

WOOL WAREHOUSE AT ALBUQUERQUE

The opening of a new wool warehouse at Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been announced by Mr. Frank Bond of that city and others interested with him in the enterprise. The new concern will be known as the New Mexico-Arizona Wool Warehouse Company.

An especially constructed warehouse will be complete in time to receive 1929 clips. The building is of two stories, 100 by 200 feet, and will cost \$100,000.

Wools will be handled upon consignment and operation will be conducted under license in compliance with the U. S. government act. It is expected to assemble large quantities of wool and offer them at sealed bid sales or otherwise as may be desired by patrons. The plan is somewhat of an adaptation of the system that has been giving good results in Texas in recent years.

The general management of the warehouse will be assumed by Mr. L. A. McCrae, and the selling work will be under the direction of Mr. C. A. Baker, who has had several years of successful experience in the wool warehouse at Roswell.

The company's announcement includes an innovation inasmuch as it is stated that the charges for handling wools will be in amount of 2½ per cent of the gross amount received. This is the only concern that is offering wool warehouse and selling service at other than a flat rate per pound. The insurance charges, which will be in addition to the 2½ per cent, amount to 38 cents for each \$100 of insurance carried.

AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

This was a bad month on livestock because of the intense cold, especially during the earlier portion. A noticeable shrinkage occurred, and scattered losses were reported, more especially among range stuff not well sheltered or fed. Where possible bands and herds were moved close to railroads for feeding, as the range was covered with snow and afforded little forage. Feed was scarce in western and northern counties, where it was more difficult to reach the bands because of snow. This has been one of the hardest winters of record on livestock generally in the state.

Emblem

We have had heavy snows and cold weather since December 1. All sheep are on feed. Hay is all bought up and is now around \$20 per ton. Most stockmen bought their hay in the fall at \$8 and \$10 per ton. There will be plenty of feed to take the stock through in good shape.

M. H. Newcomer

Verse

February brought us a lot of cold weather and a light covering of snow. No losses in sheep have been reported around here and no feeding is being done that I know of.



Range Band on Feed in the Lewiston Valley, Idaho. For the First Time in Many Years Severe Conditions Have Forced the Moving of Cattle and Sheep from the Snake River Winter Country in Northern Idaho.

I have not talked with a man that is in favor of a special tax to pay bounties on coyotes and other wild animals. Everyone seems to think that the work of the Biological Survey and the local trappers is sufficient.

There has not been much discussion in regard to wool marketing methods.

T. H.

Bertha

We have been having a little winter in and around here. In some places the thermometer has been as low as 37 degrees below. Some of the men are out of feed; I have not had to feed any grain or hay to my larger bunch of ewes yet and they are doing well so far.

I have sold my lambs at \$11.60 per hundredweight, to be delivered in October.

G. A. Bergren

MONTANA

Uneven temperatures with a few severely cold spells characterized the month, which ended with milder weather alleviating much stress among livestock. The long continued cold weather depreciated livestock, and some loss occurred in younger, weaker stuff not well sheltered and fed. Feed continued plentiful, though traffic was hindered by snow. More or less sore mouth prevailed among sheep, though conditions improved when milder weather came.

Fishtrap

We have had very severe windy weather which has left the snow piled high. March, however, is trying for spring with warm winds, and the snow is settling fast. Sheep have wintered well and a good lamb crop is expected.

John S. Paddock
Helena

Very stormy weather prevailed in this section up to March 3, but since then it has been fine, with the snow going off and plenty of good grass apparently ahead of us. Altogether this has not been a bad winter. It did not start in until the middle of January and everyone has had lots of feed.

We like the work of the Biological Survey very much; we have an extra good man in our territory.

Loans are being made on sheep at 8 per cent.

J. F. O'Connell

IDAHO

Abnormally cold weather prevailed throughout the month, and the country remained snow and icebound almost continuously and generally. The long winter and heavy demands have depleted livestock feed supplies, and feed shortages have occurred in many sections. Lambing under shelter has progressed satisfactorily, with good results. Livestock suffered more or less with the cold weather, though no considerable losses occurred. Side roads remained blocked most of the time.

Malad

We have passed through the big end of the severest winter in many years—zero weather from December until March 1. The snow is thawing pretty fast now (March 7), however.

Sheep have wintered well and there will be a very nice clip of wool in the valley, which is all to be sold in a pool of 10,000 fleeces.

We are fighting the coyotes with the Biological Survey and are getting very good results from Mr. Holman and his hunters.

Some hay is selling at \$15, but very little is offered.

Frank Clark

OREGON

The severest cold spell for many years prevailed early in the month, abating slowly but not entirely at the close. Heavy feeding was necessary throughout the month, and an appreciable loss of lambs was reported. The snow layer has remained general east of the Cascades. Hay has become scarce in places, especially where the snow cover has remained longest and feeding has been heaviest.

Gaylord

Our winter has been about as usual so far as losses are concerned; possibly little more expense for feed may be attached to the operations. No alfalfa is raised here and the baled alfalfa that is shipped in is costing us \$35 a ton.

A good opinion of the efforts of the Biological Survey exists here. They are on the go all the time. I do not favor a bounty as it affords too much encouragement to bootleg scalps from other sections.

There have been no sales of wool that I have heard of; the growers of this district all seem to hold to the idea that selling their wool to dealers is the best way to handle it.

Growers here have been helped very much by the extension work of the Oregon Agricultural College in combating sheep diseases.

R. P. Carmen

Keating

Lambing is well under way here, having commenced around the tenth of February. All the sheepmen are reporting lots of twins and the saving of a large percentage of lambs. It is very sloppy and muddy at the present time (March 1).

The first part of February was cold, but later in the month it warmed up. There has been lots of snow. No large losses are reported, but the February lambing operation has been more expensive.

The deep snows this winter have permitted the running down, on saddle horses, of coyotes, about 85 of them being

caught. The work of the Biological Survey is pretty good, but personally I favor an additional bounty for this work.

There is a growing feeling among sheepmen here that they should market their wools in a more orderly fashion, favoring the pool idea at present.

Banks are loaning money on sheep at 8 per cent.

Stacked alfalfa is now quoted at \$20 a ton and baled at \$30.

Wayne E. Phillips

WASHINGTON

Extremely cold weather early in the month moderated gradually toward the close of the month. Precipitation was not heavy, but a good snow cover remained over the entire eastern portion of the state throughout the month, until right at the close it became pretty thin in places. Lambing progressed under cover through the month, with some losses during the coldest weather. Heavy livestock feeding was necessary, especially during the coldest weather.

NEVADA

The early weeks were extremely cold, necessitating heavy feeding, and causing considerable shrinkage of livestock. Owing to poor ranges, deep snow and bad weather many sheep were moved to farms for feeding. Most of the state has been well covered with snow through the month. Livestock are in only fair shape as a general rule. The hay supply is running short in a few places.

Flanigan

It has been dry and cold here during the past several weeks and the snowfall has been below the average. Water is very scarce on the ranges at present (March 4). We have had to feed about the same as in other years. Corn is used from the first of February on. The old ewes are in the hay. Those who are buying alfalfa hay now are paying \$12 to \$15 for it in the stack and \$22 for it baled.

Losses have been reported around here from poison, swelled head, and blind staggers.

We are very much opposed to any additional taxes upon sheepmen for any purpose; think they are taxed to the limit now. Also, the Biological Survey is do-

ing good work in this section and a bounty on coyotes is not necessary.

The men around here do not take very well to the idea of changing wool selling methods.

From \$8 to \$10 is being loaned on bred ewes at 8 per cent.

Mocho Bros.

Reno

February has been dry and cold. The winter loss of sheep so far has been light, but the expense of feeding a little higher. The majority are feeding corn. Alfalfa hay can be had at \$10 to \$15 a ton when fed out of the stack; baled it costs \$20.

The work of the Biological Survey has been very beneficial and an extra bounty tax does not seem necessary. However, up to the present (March 1) the legislature which is in session has not yet made an appropriation to continue the predatory animal work.

Eight per cent is the usual interest charge for money loaned on sheep. There does not seem to be any fixed amount that the banks will loan on bred ewes; the matter appears to vary with different bankers.

J. P. Aldaz

UTAH

Exceptionally cold and unusually stormy weather prevailed. Livestock suffered a gradual depreciation and some scattering losses among ungathered cattle were reported. Wherever possible both cattle and sheep were moved from the open range to feeding corrals or temporary feeding lots near transportation lines, and put on full feed. The snow cover has remained steadily through the month, and generally over the state. In most sections hay and other feeds have held out satisfactorily, though feeding was heavy through the month.

COLORADO

Persistent cold weather with continuous snow cover over the western part of the state was hard on livestock, resulting in some shrinkages and scattered losses. Heavy feeding has been necessary most of the time. Some western roads were closed by snow, while over the lower eastern areas the country has been too dry. Some sections in the west reported shortages of feed.

(Continued on page 39)

Disastrous Weather Hits Oregon Sheep Country

What was an excellent winter up to mid-January for Oregon sheepmen is now recorded as the worst winter experienced in more than ten years. The Storm Gods descended in all their wrath. Snow fell. It stayed. Sub-zero weather prevailed, and March 1 saw snow still on the ground in practically all of the range territory east of the Cascades with the exception of lower elevations along the Columbia and Snake rivers. Wool growers, hopeful for an excellent year up to January 15, saw their hope fade, and their feed supplies diminish. They hurried to buy additional hay and concentrates at high prices and with it, as one big sheep operator put it, "went the profits of two or more seasons".

Lamb Percentages Cut

Out on the banks of the Imnaha River in Wallowa County where winter grazing is usually abundant and snow seldom visits, there was 18 inches of it this year. Even on the south slopes of the steep canyons snow drifted so badly that sheep could not reach the sparse feed in these sheltered places. To save their bands, Wallowa County sheepmen were forced in many instances to freight feed from the Wallowa Valley. Hundreds of tons of chopped alfalfa, cotton seed cake and corn were brought for a distance of 40 miles, then along the Snake River by water for a few miles and again by pack train the balance of the distance from 6 to 30 miles. The sheep were fat and in excellent condition when the cold spell hit, sheepmen say, otherwise serious losses would have resulted. The feed situation was similar throughout the range country, but perhaps not so difficult as that which prevailed in the Imnaha region of Wallowa.

Lambing in February during weather as cold as 27 degrees below zero is not conducive to large lamb crops. It was in such a temperature, 20 degrees below zero or colder, that many sheepmen of Umatilla, Morrow and some of the other Columbia Basin counties started lambing. Such severe February temperatures, according to the old-timers in the district, date back to the days prior to the prac-

tice of early lambing in sheds. While the well equipped outfits suffered least in loss of lambs, they were caused no end of trouble. Feed requirements were greatly increased to supply the ewe's body with heat and at the same time to provide milk. Labor, too, was greatly increased and plenty of stoves were necessary to revive the chilled lambs. Just what the lamb crop will be is still a matter of speculation and depends somewhat on the success of range lambing. Many familiar with conditions, however, predict a crop about 80 per cent of last year's and about 85 per cent of normal.

Not since the balmy war days has hay reached any such figure as has prevailed this year. Baled or loose hay from anywhere it could be obtained has been purchased by wool growers throughout the range territory in large volume. Baled hay has brought prices from \$25.00 to \$35.00 per ton. Cotton seed cake and corn have likewise been used in large quantities at relatively high figures. C. E. Burgess, veteran wool grower of Wheeler County, says that many carloads of Yakima Valley alfalfa hay have been unloaded at Condon for Gilliam and Wheeler County sheepmen, the bulk selling at \$32.50 per ton. After being unloaded at Condon, the terminus of the railroad, some of this hay has been trucked another 30 to 70 miles back into the interior.

Farm Flocks Also Suffer

But the Oregon wool grower of the range country was not the only one to suffer loss from the long cold spell. The farm flock owner in the usual green grass country lying west of the Cascades suffered considerable loss due principally to feed shortage. The usual February grass did not appear, being held back by continued cold. January and February lambing are the rule in this district with the ewes on grass pasture supplemented with light feeding and in many cases no feeding. Grazing was conspicuously absent this year and many were not prepared with supplies of hay and grain to take its place. In Douglas County, western

Oregon's premier sheep country, the lamb crop particularly suffered. Many predict that this year's crop will not exceed 80 per cent and the necessity of purchasing high price feed to meet the emergency will take the profits for several years.

Even in the coast counties lying along the Pacific Ocean where grass normally grows the year 'round there was little or no grass this year. One old stockman of this region told me he fed hay this year for the first time in over ten years. His cattle hardly knew what hay was until they were forced to eat it during more than six weeks of cold weather.

In spite of all the difficulty and gloom which has permeated the wool growers' quarters, the first days of March brought definite signs of spring, indicating that the sheep industry in Oregon had withstood the crisis, and brought again the promise of better weather. As a result optimism prevailed in many a camp based on the hope that bad weather was over and the promise of good grass and abundant hay resulting from an assured moisture supply.

Limit of Feed Supplies Reached

The feed situation in Oregon as developed this year indicates clearly that the livestock population in the state has expanded up to the limit of its feed supply in normal years. This being an unusual winter, the feed supply was not adequate. All this caused the Animal Husbandry Department of the Oregon State Agricultural College to issue a warning in connection with sheep expansion during a series of meetings arranged by county agents and held in fifteen counties in the state. The report submitted at most of the meetings by E. L. Potter, chief of the Department of Animal Husbandry and by H. A. Lindgren, livestock specialist, in part, follows:

"Oregon now has all the sheep she can properly feed. Further expansion will mean short feed, exorbitant prices of feed, unthrifty sheep, and eventually financial loss. Present conditions of the sheep business in Oregon are excellent. We have plenty of good sheep, plenty of feed for normal years, and a strong, healthy market. The future prospect is excellent. The only danger is overexpansion.

"All kinds of people who have never been in the sheep business are trying to buy sheep. It is not the old experienced sheepman who is expanding the business, but the merchant, lawyer, banker, and school teacher, to say nothing of the small farmer who has not been too successful in other lines of agriculture. They have been told that a ewe will produce a gross return of 100 per cent. They have also been told that the United States does not produce nearly enough wool to meet domestic needs. They do not know that a ewe must produce a gross return of 100 per cent if she is to pay for feed and expenses and interest on investment. They do not know that it is very difficult to get 100 per cent return on ewes at current prices. That the United States does not produce enough wool to meet domestic demands is true, but it always has been true. It was just as true in the demoralizing years of 1920-21 as it is now.

"If these amateur sheep speculators could injure no one but themselves, the situation would be less serious, but if they keep on at the present rate they will put the price of ewes, feed, and pasture to figures that will ruin even our best operators. This was illustrated in 1917-18-19, when the conservative operators found themselves helpless in the face of the wild speculation that was going on all around them.

"The normal capacity of the ranges and pastures of Oregon one year with another is 2,000,000 sheep and 500,000 beef cattle. We now have 2,500,000 sheep, but this excess of sheep is offset by the fact that we now have only 410,000 beef cattle. The present feed situation is, therefore, satisfactory except for the unusual winter. We can take care of the number of sheep we now have, along with our small supply of cattle, but we cannot stand an increase unless we cut down on some other kind of stock, and we are not doing that."

Corvallis, Oregon. W. L. Teutsch.

Joe Montague, one of the leading sheepmen of West Texas, has this to say of the *National Wool Grower*: "It is the best magazine that the sheepmen in Texas get; I couldn't do without it."

S. A.

Conditions in Idaho Early Lambing Districts

The weather is improving a little but we have had quite a winter. The ranges are pretty well covered with snow, but it is going off slowly. The worst part of it is the ground was deeply frozen before the snow came and the grass never started last fall, so it looks like quite a pull yet before we leave the feed yards.

The early lambing district of Idaho has a fine lot of early lambs, good ones, and only a scarcity of hay is going to hurt them. Whether that scarcity materializes depends entirely on the weather, as most growers have supplies in sight until March 20, and we should be getting out by that time.

One grower who began lambing about the New Year states that his oldest lambs are now eating almost half a pound of ground feed per day, that they are good, and some individuals in the bunch will weigh 70 pounds. That looks like an unusual weight for a two-months' old lamb, but we know that there are always individual lambs which come ahead very fast.

The 'Terrible' Winter

We hear terrible tales of the winter elsewhere, and when we get away from home hear just as sorrowful accounts of our home country. In a certain coast city it was reported that the early Idaho lamb crop was ruined in numbers and condition. That is not so at this writing, March 2, and will not apply for another couple of weeks, though there may be isolated cases of feed shortage.

We had zero weather at least half of our lambing, as low as 20 degrees below in some sections, yet the loss of lambs from weather conditions was practically nil. From my personal experience give us zero weather in preference to wet corrals and wet sheep. The low set lambing quarters are kept warm from the body heat of the sheep and just as soon as the lamb finds his meal ticket and dries off, he is ready for the sunny side of a windbreak and 20 degrees below never fazes him. We keep a good many heating stoves going just the same.

This has really been the toughest early

lambing we have experienced since that system has become a custom with us, and our experience justifies the thought that we can raise lambs no matter what climatic conditions are. A steady three or four days' rain might give us something to complain about, but cold has nothing to worry us any more.

Shearing Commenced

Shearing has already begun, which sounds sort of reckless—hand work, however. And a well filled up ewe with a windbreak can weather any storm for the first week or so, after that she can dispense with most of the windbreak. With old ewes it is risky, but growers find that the lambs do much better in a sheared band than in one with the wool on. In the first place the dining room is clean which the lamb must appreciate: it cannot be too much to its liking to nozzle its head among a lot of dirty tags. A sheared band also will hunt shelter in a storm, which all counts. The little fellows appreciate a sheltered bedground. Many of us have cussed enthusiastically some old ewe which persisted in getting onto some exposed ridge with a young lamb just trailing along behind. Pretty soon it was not trailing, and the same applies to older stuff. Shelter among our heavy sagebrush means a good deal to the early Idaho lamb.

We get away too from the barebellies, and it is this early shearing which has materially increased the weight of our clip. It goes into the sack now, not onto the sagebrush. Just what may happen should some unusual blizzard happen along is something we have not yet experienced, but we have weathered some tough ones since early shearing has been practiced, and we are unusually situated. The country over which we run as soon as we turn out is rather heavily covered with sagebrush, much of it quite tall, especially in the bottoms of the little gullies. The general lay of the land, cut up as it is with rimrocks, keeps the wind from the bands and over and above that advantage is the light precipitation in this particular area. It may be snowing and blowing a few miles away in the foot-

hills, but the main hang out for the bands the first month out of the feed yards misses many of the spring storms.

We have had a lot of notoriously poor hay in many of our early lambing districts. In a good many instances the second crop is allowed to run too long before cutting, and is stemmy and very poor feed. The first crop is often mixed with cheat grass; even when cut green about all that can be said for this sort of hay is that it beats a snowdrift a very little. As a milk producer it is just helpless. Wool men have about concluded that such hay is worth about half the value of good well got alfalfa, that would mean fed to dry stuff.

The grower who stacks his own hay and stacks it right has a tremendous advantage over his neighbor who buys where he can. The farmer who puts up good hay deserves a premium. His neighbor should be penalized if his crop is bad, but the sheepman is not a discriminating buyer. Often he cannot help himself; his lambing location forces him to buy the hay within easy hauling distance, and he takes it all within reach.

Never saw wool buyers so busy or suspicious of one another. They act as though they wanted the wool badly and are afraid the other fellow is getting ahead. Our early shorn wool runs largely to the quarter and three-eighths, and this is the kind in most demand according to the reports. If they can stay off the market long enough to get the grower uneasy, there is a possibility that the clip may be bought right from a buyer's viewpoint, but the grower is rather well informed and pretty stiff on the bit. You hear of the hard winter, heavy shrinkage and short staple. That is all the buyer talks about. None of their arguments hold water on our early shorn wools. It is well grown, perhaps a trifle heavier than last year, but not so heavy as the buyers peg it at—they peg safe. The ewes as a rule are in first class condition. As far as the winter is concerned, it is going to have little effect on our early shorn wools.

All we need is two weeks' decent weather and another successful year is in sight. It has been more expensive than usual and

perhaps our twins are not up to average in either numbers or conditions, but the next two weeks will tell the tale. It will put our year's operations on the red or black side of the ledger.

MEAT PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN 1928

A total of 16,955 million pounds of dressed meat, not including lard, is estimated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to have been produced in the United States during 1928. The report issued by the Department on February 22 shows that this total was made up of 6,082 million pounds of beef, 814 million pounds of veal, 671 million pounds of lamb and mutton, 9,387 million pounds of pork, and 1 million pounds of goat meat. Beef slaughter fell 744 million pounds below the 1927 figure, while pork increased 854 million pounds over the previous year, and lamb and mutton slaughter showed a gain of 26 million pounds. Of the total slaughter 66.75 per cent was federally inspected.

The total increase in meat production for the year 1928 was 83 million pounds, but the per capita consumption shows a slight decrease, that is, from 139.7 in 1927 to 138 in 1928.

Lamb and Mutton

In regard to lamb and mutton the report reads:

"Considering the high quality of well-fattened lamb and mutton as an article of the diet, the consumption in the United States is strikingly low when compared with that of several other countries. Statistics show that the proportion of lamb and mutton in the British meat dietary is over 20 per cent, in Argentina 9 per cent, in France 7 per cent, and in the United States only 4 per cent.

"Production of lamb and mutton in the United States has exceeded 700 million pounds in four years only, namely, in the period from 1911 to 1914. Thereafter there was a rapid decline to the lowest point on record in 1917, only 473 million pounds being produced in that year. With few exceptions there has been a gradual rise in the annual totals since that time. The production in 1928, 671 million pounds, is an increase of 4 per cent on the

preceding year and is the largest total in fourteen years. The production in recent years has been keeping slightly in advance of the increase in population. Both imports and exports of mutton are insignificant."

Summary of Per Capita Consumption

The following table shows in detail the per capita consumption of the various kinds of meat and of lard for the last three years:

KIND	1926 Lbs.	1927 Lbs.	1928 Lbs.
Beef	63.6	58.4	51.7
Veal	8.2	7.4	6.8
Pork (except lard).....	65.7	68.5	73.9
Lamb and mutton.....	5.5	5.4	5.6
Total meat	143.0	139.7	138.0
Lard	13.5	13.8	14.7

SPECIAL TALKS ON LAMB TO BE BROADCASTED

As a part of this year's lamb promotion work the National Live Stock and Meat Board has prepared and sent out to some 800 broadcasting stations a set of talks on lamb. These talks are designed primarily for the woman's hour at the stations during the spring months.

"Points to Bear in Mind When Purchasing Lamb," the subject of one of the talks, deals with the use of the fore-quarter cuts and the means of distinguishing lamb from mutton. "Quality in lamb is indicated," it reads, "by the characteristics of the fat covering, the flesh, and the bone. The fat should be smooth and even over the entire carcass, but it is only in the most highly finished sheep that the legs and shanks are completely covered. Besides being properly finished a carcass must have proper quality of flesh and bone. The flesh should be firm and fine-grained. The color of the flesh varies from light pink in lamb to a dull brick red in mature mutton. The bones are an important indication of the maturity of the carcass. In lamb the brisket is soft and red and the ribs and shank bones are colored by blood vessels. In mature sheep the bones are white and hard."

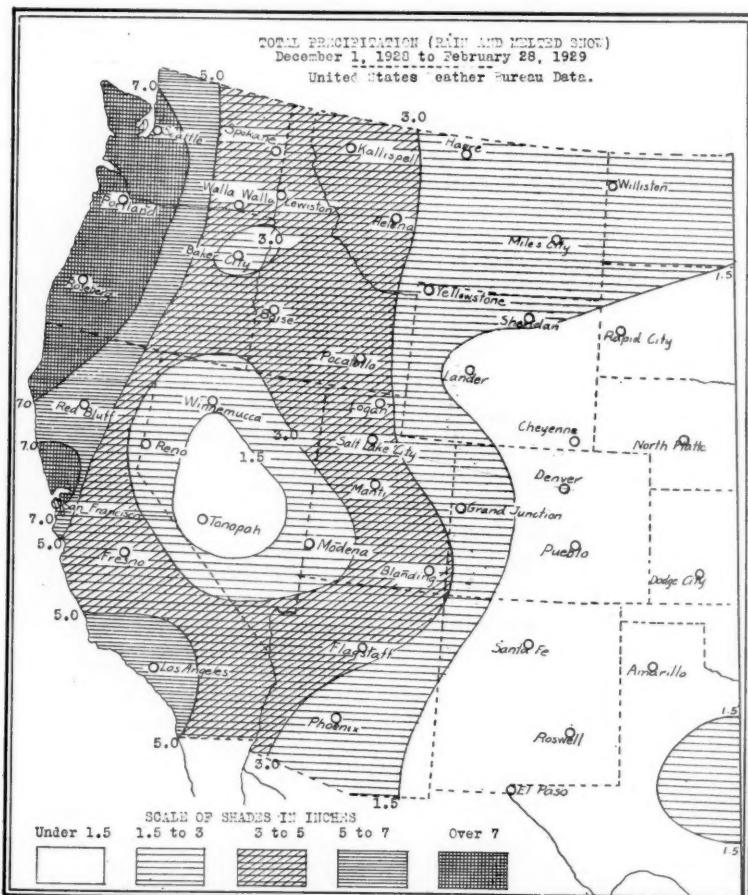
Other talks consider attractive ways to serve left-over lamb and odd customs in serving lamb in foreign countries.

THE WINTER MOISTURE RECORD

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY OF MOISTURE AT VARIOUS POINTS

Precipitation on the Western Livestock Ranges during December, 1928, January and February, 1929.

	Total Amount	Excess or Deficiency
Washington—		
Seattle	7.13	—7.30
Spokane	3.08	—3.04
Walla Walla	4.08	—1.70
Oregon—		
Portland	11.98	—6.70
Baker City	2.64	—1.51
Roseburg	9.52	—5.62
California—		
Red Bluff	6.55	—6.53
San Francisco	8.35	—3.99
Fresno	3.35	—1.26
Los Angeles	6.05	—2.75
Nevada—		
Winnemucca	1.52	—1.50
Reno	1.84	—1.86
Tonopah	1.38	—0.09
Arizona—		
Phoenix	2.21	—0.24
Flagstaff	4.58	—2.60
New Mexico—		
Santa Fe	1.34	—0.82
Roswell	1.13	—0.50
Texas—		
Amarillo	1.01	—0.95
Abilene	2.71	—0.60
El Paso	0.42	—0.97
Montana—		
Helena	3.22	+0.90
Kalispell	3.99	—0.54
Harve	1.69	—0.15
Miles City	1.67	—0.10
Williston, N. Dak.	1.92	+0.39
Idaho—		
Lewiston	3.53	—0.78
Pocatello	3.86	+0.34
Boise	4.23	—0.51
Utah—		
Logan	3.74	—0.59
Salt Lake City	3.41	—0.84
Modena	2.40	+0.02
Monticello	4.09	—0.23
Wyoming—		
Yellowstone	2.70	—1.72
Sheridan	2.26	+0.07
Lander	0.99	—0.90
Cheyenne	1.34	—0.27
Rapid City, S. Dak.	1.03	—0.34
North Platte, Neb.	0.75	—0.70
Colorado—		
Denver	0.98	—0.68
Pueblo	1.18	—0.06
Grand Junction	2.86	+1.05
Dodge City, Kas.	2.10	+0.35



WINTER SNOWS BELOW NORMAL

Another dry month, February, in most western grazing states, has concluded one of the driest winters of record over much of this area. February precipitation was below normal everywhere except in Colorado and Wyoming, and a station here and there in Montana, the Dakotas, New Mexico and Texas. Consequently the winter's accumulated totals of precipitation are below normal nearly everywhere, only Helena, Williston, Pocatello, Modena, Sheridan, Grand Junction and Dodge City showing slight excesses in a total of 42 reporting stations. A few scattered stations have had less than half the normal winter moisture, namely, Seattle, Reno and El Paso; while only about half the normal has been reported at Spokane, Red Bluff, Amarillo, Lander and North Platte, with decided deficiencies in many other places. There have been fewer stormy days than usual in most states, but many stations had frequent light precipitation. Thus it has been an unfavorable winter generally, and the available moisture supply to date promises none too good a range condition this spring and summer.

WOOL MARKETING AND FINANCING

Address By R. A. Ward, General Manager Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers
Before the Oregon Wool Growers' Convention—Baker City
January 12, 1929

The subject assigned to me, "Wool Financing" is of great interest to all sheepmen. It is a subject on which a great deal of work has been done by individuals and by associations, and I am glad to state that I believe a great deal of progress has been made.

The ideal system of wool marketing and wool financing has perhaps not yet been reached, and it probably never will be, but through organized effort there has been made available to sheepmen, agencies and instrumentalities which go a long way toward solving our wool marketing problem.

Like many other commendable things available to all of us in this world, one of the chief difficulties now lies in getting the wool growers to use the existing agencies for wool marketing and wool financing. The fault lies not so much with the various wool marketing systems available as the lack of use of these systems by those for whom they were designed to benefit. This will come about through a process of education and will probably be of slow growth, although at the present time, the eyes of the nation are focused upon marketing farm products, particularly cooperative marketing, and the movement will probably receive impetus and assistance during the next few years under the incoming administration, which it has not had and which will make it move forward more rapidly than has been the case in the past.

Cooperative marketing of wool and financing of wool are so nearly inseparable that I shall discuss them together. In cooperative marketing as developed by our most successful organizations, and as approved by our leading bankers and by marketing experts in the Department of Agriculture, we find the financing of the commodity and marketing of it to be so closely allied that they can be most efficiently performed by a single agency. This is not theory—it is the result of many years of practical experience by large cooperatives doing millions of dol-

lars worth of business annually, and it has been found that the combination of these two functions has resulted in far greater benefits than when the two functions were separated.



R. A. WARD

First let us consider the subject of wool marketing. I shall discuss this from the standpoint of cooperative wool marketing for a number of reasons. It should be borne in mind by our wool producers and their leaders that we are now conducting our respective businesses, whether they be wool growing or wool selling, in a very much more complex civilization than existed even a decade ago. Today American business has entered the age of mass distribution, and has entered it in a big way. Only yesterday mass production occupied the center of the industrial stage. Out of the mass of small competing factories came

the trust of today. Steel, oil, meat, automobiles and other necessities, are now produced by gigantic corporations using aggregations of capital, operating not only on a national but an international scale. Mass production, having been perfected, has made necessary mass distribution. Some say that American business men have failed to observe this, and while they have been so intent on lowering costs of manufacture, the cost of selling and distributing has been going steadily up. The mounting cost of distribution has nullified to some extent the principal advantage of mass production. In order to pass on these advantages to the consumer and thereby increase consumption and demand, it has been necessary to adopt mass distribution to make possible mass buying. Herbert Hoover, through the Department of Commerce, reports that no less than \$8,000,000,000 per year is thrown away through inefficient marketing.

Out of every dollar spent in retail stores today, seventeen cents goes into the treasury of chain store corporations. Consider for a moment the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company which operates 17,500 grocery stores doing an annual business of \$750,000,000; the Woolworth Company operating 1,581 variety stores doing \$272,000,000 worth of business. To summarize, there are 3,986 chain companies operating 97,846 stores in the United States today.

You may wonder what all this has to do with cooperative wool marketing. Simply this: the benefits of mass production are for the present denied the American farmer and wool grower. For a long time to come he will continue to produce as an independent unit, and there will be some seven millions of these units. But the benefits of mass distribution are available to him through cooperative marketing and through consolidations of cooperatives.

There are some 30,000 wool growers in the five states of Oregon, Washington,



Grading Wool at the Portland Warehouse of the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers.

Idaho, Nevada, and California, each an independent unit. Mass production is largely impossible for them. Nearly all of the advantages of mass distribution, such as reduction in selling costs, handling, grading costs, some measure of control and market development, are available to them and to all the wool growers in the United States, through their wool marketing associations. A wool grower, reading the above figures covering chain store distribution and knowing something of mass production such as carried on by the United States Steel Corporation, the General Motors, the packers, the oil companies and others, must indeed be an optimist of a high order if he expects to market his product independently and get all he is entitled to get for it, in such a complex industrial system.

Before considering cooperative marketing specifically, let us consider cooperative marketing in general, because there is undoubtedly among wool growers considerable lack of information as to just what cooperative marketing is and what it has accomplished. It has always been popular in some localities to speak disparagingly of cooperative marketing as if it were a method of business foredoomed to failure. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Cooperative marketing is simply a method of business and is subject to all of the risks, vicissitudes and

economic laws which affect any business. Cooperative organizations, like private corporations, succeed or fail, according to how they are managed, whether they fill a real need, whether they are soundly and adequately financed and properly set up.

Let us consider for a moment that in 1928 there were 11,340 cooperative associations conducting businesses in the United States which are going concerns. These 11,340 associations have three million members who are marketing their products through these organizations under membership agreements. In 1927 the amount of business done by these cooperative organizations amounted to \$2,300,000,000 which is quite a growth from the year 1915 when only \$636,000,000 worth of business was transacted in this manner.

In speaking of failures of cooperatives, it can be easily ascertained from credit reporting agencies that the percentage of failures of cooperative enterprises is not any greater than in the commercial forms of business with which we are all familiar.

A former member of the Federal Farm Loan Board pointed out that thousands of private corporations organized under the same laws with practically identical charters begin operations under similar conditions and equal opportunities, but that some fail while others succeed. "The mortality of cooperative marketing as-

sociations," he said, "is negligible as compared to other businesses."

Cooperative marketing has entered the ranks of big business. Consider for a moment the New York Dairymens League Cooperative Association which is ten years old, has assets of ten million dollars and did a business last year of over eighty-two million dollars. The California Citrus Exchange did eighty-five million dollars worth of business. The Land O'Lake Cooperative Creameries did forty-six million dollars worth of business. There are over fifteen large scale business cooperative associations of producers, each doing an annual business in excess of fifty million dollars per annum.

Cooperative wool marketing in the United States has been a success. Last year approximately 25 to 30 million pounds of wool were marketed through cooperative associations by wool growers. The largest volume handled by a single cooperative was, first, that of the Pacific Cooperative, next, the Ohio Cooperative, followed by the Wyoming and Montana cooperatives. The Ohio cooperative is about ten years old and serves 12,000 producers. The Pacific Cooperative is about nine years old and serves about 3500 producers. There are no obstacles confronting cooperative wool marketing which are insurmountable or which are nearly so difficult as in the case of certain cooperatives handling perishable products or products of which we produce an exportable surplus. This does not mean that wool marketing cooperatives are perfect or that they entirely satisfy all of their membership. There has never been any kind of an organization created, to my knowledge, which can satisfy all of its membership or all of its customers, particularly if it is a cooperative.

We find wool growers dissatisfied with consignments made to old line dealers, just the same as we find them dissatisfied with the returns they receive from a cooperative wool marketing organization. This does not prove that the system of cooperative marketing of wool is unsound or that it is at fault. It really means that the dissatisfied producer had a wool clip which was not so good as he

(Continued on page 37).

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The report issued by the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture on January 25, 1929, covering its estimates of livestock on farms and ranges of the United States, presents the following figures.

Farm Animals (1)	Numbers	
	Per Cent of Preceding Year	Total Number
Horses and Colts		
Jan. 1, 1927	95.6	15,133,000
Jan. 1, 1928	96.1	14,540,000
Jan. 1, 1929	96.5	14,029,000
Mules and Mule Colts		
Jan. 1, 1927	98.5	5,652,000
Jan. 1, 1928	97.9	5,532,000
Jan. 1, 1929	98.5	5,447,000
All Cattle and Calves		
Jan. 1, 1927	96.1	56,832,000
Jan. 1, 1928	98.0	55,681,000
Jan. 1, 1929	100.1	55,751,000
Cows and Heifers		
2-years old and over kept for milk cows		
Jan. 1, 1927	98.3	21,801,000
Jan. 1, 1928	100.1	21,824,000
Jan. 1, 1929	100.0	21,820,000
Heifers 1 to 2 years old being kept for milk cows		
Jan. 1, 1927	103.5	4,059,000
Jan. 1, 1928	103.5	4,201,000
Jan. 1, 1929	104.2	4,377,000
Sheep and Lambs (3)		
Jan. 1, 1927	105.4	41,881,000
Jan. 1, 1928	106.4	44,554,000
Jan. 1, 1929	105.9	47,171,000
Swine Including Pigs		
Jan. 1, 1927	105.1	54,788,000
Jan. 1, 1928	110.3	60,420,000
Jan. 1, 1929	91.0	54,956,000

(1) 1927 and 1928 figures revised.

(2) Figures for "all cattle and calves" include milk cattle.

(3) Figures for "sheep and lambs" include estimates of sheep and lambs on feed for market in feed lots as well as on farms.

The numbers of sheep and lambs by states or groups of states is reported as follows:

STATE	1928 (Revised)	1929	
		Per Cent of 1928	Total
Ohio	2,133,000	101	2,154,000
Indiana	705,000	103	726,000
Illinois	630,000	105	664,000
Michigan	1,314,000	105	1,380,000
Wisconsin	430,000	105	450,000
Minnesota	666,000	103	686,000
Iowa	939,000	117	1,096,000
Missouri	942,000	105	987,000
No. Dakota	529,000	110	582,000
So. Dakota	809,000	110	890,000
Nebraska	905,000	116	1,050,000
Kansas	512,000	105	538,000
Total 12 States	10,514,000	106.6	11,203,000
Kentucky	958,000	104	996,000
Tennessee	345,000	102	352,000
Alabama	66,000	120	79,000
Mississippi	45,000	84	38,000
Arkansas	54,000	93	50,000
Louisiana	107,000	103	110,000
Oklahoma	97,000	110	107,000
Texas	4,593,000	110	5,052,000
Total 8 States	6,265,000	108.3	6,784,000

HARTZELL CUTS UP A LAMB

To those who have had the opportunity of watching Mr. D. W. Hartzell deftly cut up a lamb carcass, the following clipping from the Denver Record Stockman will be appreciated:

"On the speakers' table, where the water pitcher and the grimy glass usually stand, Hartzell tenderly laid the gleaming lambkin, cold in packing house death. A few dainty passes at a sharpener, a suave look at his vast audience and he started in, making the lamb neck his first point of attack. He cut and talked and talked and cut, majestically waving his neat creations as he trimmed them up for the oven—meaning come on with that applause. Veterans of the sheep camp and finished articles in home butchers condescended to see the demonstration start and then never left the room until Hartzell had rounded up his last chop, waved his last pseudo, but toothsome roast and bowed for the final hand—the place where the orchestra does its grand flourish and da-de-da. It goes over big, the National Live Stock and Meat Board's demonstration act, and they are beginning to Hartzellize in the shops down east—and likewise to sell heaps more lamb."

riard Park, Basingstoke; and Mr. James Goldsmith, Blendworth, Hants.

CONTROL OF SHEEP TICK DESCRIBED IN REVISED BULLETIN

Though widely prevalent, especially among close-herded range flocks, the blood-sucking parasite known as the sheep tick can be readily eradicated by flock owners who study its nature and habits and who will treat their sheep according to government directions. Farmers' Bulletin 798-F, "The Sheep Tick and Its Eradication by Dipping," just revised, describes and illustrates this enemy of the sheep industry.

"The only practical way of destroying the pest," declares Dr. Marion Imes, the author of the bulletin, "is by dipping the sheep. Two dippings are necessary about 24 days apart, as the first dipping may not destroy all the eggs and these may subsequently hatch a new brood." Several kinds of dips are used successfully, the selection being largely a matter of availability, economy, and convenience.

Many farm flocks of the United States as well as those kept under range conditions harbor sheep ticks and in some cases the parasites are present in sufficient numbers to cause considerable damage. The bulletin describes and illustrates the parasites in different stages of growth, gives full directions for dipping, and includes plans of wooden and concrete vats suitable for both small and large flocks.

HAMPSHIRE DOWN SHEEP FOR RUSSIA

The purchase of sheep made by the Russian Department of Agriculture for 1928 included 191 head (180 ewes and 11 rams) from the Hampshire Down flocks in Wiltshire and Hampshire, England. Inspection was made of the sheep of this district and selections were taken from the flocks of Mr. James Flower, Chilmark, Wilts; Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Sofer Whitburn, Amport St. Mary's, Hants; Major and Mrs. Jervoise, Her-

New Mexico Wool Growers in Annual Gathering

Wool growers of New Mexico put their twenty-sixth annual convention over with the same enthusiasm and progressive spirit that marked the meetings of sheepmen in other states this year. It was held at Roswell on February 5 and 6 and was attended by over two hundred members. The attendance was augmented also by the presence of many of the legislators, the legislature having adjourned to give its members opportunity to hear the discussions of the problems of the industry and share in the festivities, which included a dinner dance on the evening of the first day.

President Floyd W. Lee, in a very concise way, covered the important accomplishments of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association during the past year. Sheepmen of the state are particularly pleased over the results of intensive efforts put forth by the State Sheep Sanitary Board to eradicate scabies from the flocks of the state, only a very few sheep outside of those run by the Indians being now affected with this disease. The general outline of conditions as presented by Mr. Lee indicated that the industry in the state is building on sound foundations. Strong opposition was expressed by him, however, to increasing the grants of land to Indians, as such action removes the lands from the taxable area of the state and throws a greater burden upon the privately owned lands.

Officers Reelected

Appreciation of the management of association affairs under Mr. Lee's leadership was expressed by the wool growers in a unanimous vote for his re-election as president. Messrs. E. L. Moulton of Albuquerque, John P. Cauhope of Roswell, Eugenio Perez of Vaughn, and H. C. Abbott of Los Animas, Colorado, were also reelected as vice-presidents, and the work of Miss Bertha Benson as secretary was also endorsed by reappointment.

The convention program opened on the afternoon of the fifth with an address by Governor R. C. Dillon. He expressed his realization of the dependence of the

welfare of the state upon a flourishing condition of the sheep industry. Dr. A. D. Crile, president of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce, and vice-president E. L. Moulton also spoke at this first session.

After President Lee's address, the Hartzell lamb cutting demonstration was given and received with the usual interest and enthusiasm.

Several very interesting addresses were made on the second day. The work of the State Sheep Sanitary Board was reviewed by its secretary, Mr. Frank Hubbell, Jr. He was particularly pleased with the progress that had been made in the scabies work, made possible through the cooperation of the wool growers' association, a six-mill tax providing the funds for the board. The 1928 convention of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association voted that one cent per head on all sheep shipped out of the state should be collected by the Sheep Sanitary Board for the lamb promotion work of the National Wool Growers Association. Mr. Hubbell reported an 82 per cent collection of this fund.

Dr. H. L. Kent, president of the New Mexico Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station, outlined the work that the college had been doing in trying to cope with the noxious weed problem. He indicated the difficulty in controlling the situation generally, but offered the services of the college to the sheepmen at any time they were in need of assistance in handling specific instances of plant poisoning.

Mr. Prager Miller of Roswell discussed the plans which are being considered for the establishment of a livestock loaning corporation to utilize the discounting facilities of the Intermediate Credit Banks. The support given by the sheepmen to the preservation of wild game was commended by Mr. E. L. Perry, state game warden, and Messrs. B. F. Pankey, state land commissioner, and J. I. McCallum, secretary of the State Educational Association, both spoke on land affairs in the state.

The convention program also included two very interesting moving pictures on the sheepman's life in the West.

Recommendations of the Association

The association voted for a continuation of the collection of the one-cent tax on sheep shipped out of the state by the Sheep Sanitary Board for promoting the sheep industry. It also asked for an increase of four cents a pound, clean content, in the tariff on wool and opposed the placing of a lower duty rate on low grade wools, such as the Indians of the state produce. The sheepmen of New Mexico expressed by resolution their support of a system of leasing public lands that are chiefly valuable for grazing purposes, at a rate that shall not exceed the reasonable cost of administration of such system. Protest was made to the granting of larger areas of land to the Indians. Complete endorsement was given to the quarantine regulations now in effect for the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease in this country, and increased funds from the federal government were asked for the predatory animal control work. A system of inspection for all slaughter houses was also recommended.

The 1930 convention of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association will be held in Albuquerque.

NORTH PLATTE FEEDERS AND BUSINESS MEN MEET

The promotion of closer cooperation between business men and lamb feeders of the North Platte Valley was the object of a luncheon meeting of members of the Rotary Club of Scottsbluff, Nebr. and lamb feeders of that district on January 23. Of the 129 in attendance, 95 were lamb feeders. Three prime lambs furnished the meat course for the occasion and put everyone in proper mood to consider the industry that helped produce them.

Mr. T. C. Halley, president of the North Platte Valley Feeders Association, told of the efforts made by the feeders to advance their industry through raising funds to support the lamb cutting demonstrations supervised by the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the benefit that had resulted. Secretary Warrick of the Colorado-Nebraska Lamb Feeders

Association reviewed the organization now in effect among lamb feeders of those states.

Officials of the Rotary Club spoke in relation to the good fellowship that should exist between the business men and the farmers and how such cooperation could be fostered.

In connection with the meeting two resolutions were adopted by the lamb feeders.

1—Tariff on Meats

Whereas, it is the firm belief of this association that any successful attempt to secure general improvement in the condition of agriculture in the United States, must have as a basic principle the establishment of a tariff, which will guarantee to agriculture and stock raising, a fair and remunerative home market, and

Whereas, the growing importance of livestock in connection with production of crops and the conversion of crops into meat and its by-products through the feed-lot route, is recognized as essential to successful farming, and

Whereas, there is nothing of greater im-

portance than saving our home market for our own people.

Therefore, Resolved, that this association request the senators and congressmen from the states of Colorado and Nebraska, to use every honorable effort to secure prompt enactment by Congress, of legislation, which will increase tariff protection on meats and its by-products.

2—Monday Livestock Trains

Whereas, we are approaching the heaviest part of our livestock shipping season, and

Whereas, it is to the interests of the livestock shippers and the railroads, that shipments be distributed over the several livestock market days of the week, and not congested, and

Whereas, the C. B. and Q. Railroad Company is now only running one livestock train on Friday of each week, and the Union Pacific, one livestock train on Saturday of each week.

Therefore, Resolved, that we request the Burlington railroad to put on a regular Monday livestock train as soon as the movement of livestock will justify same, and the Union Pacific to put on a regular Monday livestock train, as soon as justified.

Be It Further Resolved, that we request the railroads mentioned above, to run said livestock trains on regular schedules without a definite guarantee as to the number of cars to go out on each train.

present desire to express the wish that Prof. Burns may kindly consent to test some of the six genuine Rambouillet samples that I got for him at the Bergerie Nationale on my return from Russia last spring. It might be of interest also to others if he would include some of the Russian Masaiev Merino wools whose comparatively low crimp somewhat resembles the Australian samples. The results if published would, as I dare hope, change the situation. The density test would have to be left out of course, but that would not interfere with the rest.

As to Mr. Hall's method of correcting the measurements of staple length to correspond to twelve months' growth I feel that he should by all means have told us "how" he made that correction. Even in the absence of any explanations it is safe to state that "mathematical corrections" of that kind are open to objections. Wool does not grow at an even rate throughout the year and besides its accretion is subject to variations due to local environmental conditions.

Regarding density and diameter of fibers, the comparison of the figures for the Australians and the Rambouillet is, as I frankly confess, a rather hard pill for me to swallow. Mr. Hall's thinnest Australian fibers (diam. 4.93) show a density of 13633, while the next thinnest (5.05 diam.) exhibit a corresponding density of 17220, which indicates that there are 3587 more of the thicker fibers on the same sized skin surface than of the thinnest fibers! Then the diameter of the shoulder sample of Rambouillet: U. S. No. 3-A is given as 5.89 and that of the thigh sample of the same ram as 5.68, thus indicating that the thigh wool is finer than the shoulder wool on the same ram. These things may be possible but they do not look very probable.

Concerning crimp: I am reminded of a statement made by Mr. Jos. H. King (who is as well qualified to judge such matters as any one that I know of). He says: "The bold crimp of the Australian fleeces is very deceiving." Mr. Hall's figures seem to indicate the same thing. All of his Australian samples have very low crimp (6.6, 8, 10, 10.8 resp.), and also very small diameters (5.83, 5.05, 4.93,

Wools of the American Rambouillet and Australian Merinos

By W. C. Clos

I believe that some observations and comments are in order in connection with the report printed in the December issue of the Wool Grower and entitled "Laboratory Report upon Australian and U. S. Rambouillet Samples."

When I read the above mentioned report, I was deeply interested, then surprised, and at last keenly disappointed. Interested because I appreciate the value of the wool testing work done at the Wyoming station, both surprised and disappointed, because of the entirely unexpected results shown. Being a friend and promoter of the Rambouillet breed, I may, therefore, be pardoned, if I take the liberty to offer some friendly criticism, hoping that it may be accepted in the same sympathetic spirit in which it is uttered. It is not my intention to start a controversy, but as I realize that some people, inclined to hasty conclusions, might interpret the results of the report as conclusive. I feel it my duty to at least point out, that there is another side to it.

Scientific tests, while necessarily impartial, cannot always be conclusive. A great deal of corroborative evidence is

often required to make them such and even then some of the questions involved may never get beyond dispute. In the present instance I do not consider that the results are conclusive but will admit that Mr. Hall has served us with an "eye-opener" with a kick in it, though it does not exactly suit my taste. It should be borne in mind that with millions of individual sheep of both breeds involved, a test of two types or classes of sheep, one represented by four individuals and the other by only two, means hardly more than a drop in the bucket. Rambouillet breeders need therefore not feel any great concern in the results of this laboratory test, at least not until a vast amount of additional confirmatory evidence is on hand. In this connection I desire to emphasize that my own disappointment was not so much on account of Mr. Hall's showing that on an average his Australian samples were finer than his Rambouillet, but principally because the low crimped Australian wool should turn out to be finer than the high crimped Rambouillet. I shall have occasion to come back to this point later, but for the

5.55). The lowest or boldest crimpness (6.6) shows the largest diameter of the fibers (5.83), in other words the thickest fibers. Yet his finest (thinnest) Australian fibers (4.93 diam.) do not show the highest number of crimps, but only second highest (of the Australians)—(10), which is far below the highest of the American Rambouillet (17.8).

On the other hand the highest crimped Rambouillet sample (17.8) with a diameter of 5.68 is just a trifle thinner than the thickest Australian fibers (5.83 diam.) that have only 6.6 crimps per inch of staple length. Yet this same Rambouillet sample having a crimp of 17.8 as above mentioned does not contain the finest Rambouillet fibers. The sample containing the thinnest Rambouillet fibers (5.10 diam.) has only 14.8 crimps per inch of staple length. Comparing crimps of Rambouillet samples only, with the diameters of their fibers: Mr. Hall's tabulations demonstrate that the lowest crimped Rambouillet sample (8.2) per inch, has also by far the thickest fibers (9.04 diam.). In the next sample the number of crimps has increased to 12.4 per inch, while the diameter of the fiber has shrunk to 6.20. The next has still more crimps (14.8 per in.) and the diameter of the fibers is also correspondingly smaller (5.10). After that however, the next three samples show a reverse ratio, the crimps from 15, 15.2, 15.8 and the diameters increase accordingly to 5.49, 5.61, 5.92. Therefore increase of crimpiness has advanced together with increase of thickness of the fibers, up to this point. Then the figures show another reversion of the ratio. The crimps stepup to 17 and 17.8, while the diameters decrease correspondingly from 5.89 to 5.68.

Similar variation is shown in the Australian samples. The crimps are 6.6, 8, 10 per inch and the respective diameters 5.83, 5.05 and 4.93 which shows that even in these low-crimped wools the fineness increases as the number of crimps increases; but there is also another reverse. In the fourth Australian sample the crimp has increased to 10.8 per inch and the diameter of the fibers has also increased to 5.55.

These things are sufficiently curious to

invite further discussion but lack of space and time forbid. However, I want to make it clear that these laboratory tests, while very interesting have not changed my faith in the validity of the old tried European customs of judging Merino staples of the Rambouillet type by means of the old crimp methods.

AUSTRALIAN BREEDERS PRO-TEST EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

Further news has been received from Australia in connection with the export of Merino breeding stock from that country to Russia as recently announced in the *Wool Grower*.

At a recent meeting of the Tamworth branch of the Graziers Association in New South Wales the chairman said that he thought it would be better business if Australia could retain her own breeding stock and have Russia continue as a buyer of Australian wools instead of producing the same quality in Russia. A resolution was adopted in which the government was asked to prohibit the export of stud sheep.

PROCEEDINGS OF RAMBOUILLET ASSOCIATION

The American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association has issued in booklet form a complete report of the proceedings and debates of the last annual meeting of the association, which was held at Chicago, on December 5, 1928. Copies can be obtained from the association secretary, Col. Dwight Lincoln, Marysville, Ohio.

The proceedings of the last annual meeting of the Rambouillet breeders are of peculiar interest and importance to all members of the association. For some years the feeling has been developing among members and breeders living in western states in favor of a more active policy on the part of the association for breed promotion work. It also has been felt that western breeders should have at least occasional opportunity to attend the annual business meeting without being required to make the trip to Chicago. These matters and others of importance were under debate in December in connection with the consideration of a proposed revision of the constitution which

was submitted as prepared by a special committee appointed for that purpose in 1927. This committee consisted of Prof. W. G. Kammlade of Illinois, W. D. Candler, Utah, and Roger Gillis, Texas. The report of the debate upon the proposed changes in the constitution covers thirty-two printed pages.

The booklet also includes a report of the proceedings of the meeting of the executive board which was held following the annual meeting of the members.

A WYOMING CLUB BOY'S RECORD

I am a member of the "Top of the World Sheep Club" of Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming. We chose this name because we live at an elevation of over 7100 feet and think we are perhaps the only sheep club carrying on livestock work at such a high elevation. The club was organized in 1922, but I was not able to join until the spring of 1923, when I was given a chance with other boys and girls in this county, to purchase one ewe and join the club in February of that year. I persuaded my father and uncle to let me buy one of their inferior Corriedale ewes from imported stock at a reduced price. This ewe they let me have for \$50; she, however, was bred to one of their best imported Corriedale rams from Australia and in April, 1923, had a fine pair of twin lambs, both ewes. That fall I won first place with my ewe and her pair of lambs at both the county and state fairs.

The conditions of our club require that each member must feed and look after his own ewe, keep track of the rations and costs, and keep an accurate record of feed. As I went to school in Laramie I had to bring my ewe to town and care for her there. During the five years I have been in this work, my original ewe has had twins every year and all but one of her ewes have had twins also, showing how prolific the Corriedale breed of sheep is.

My project during 1928 included showing my sheep at our county and state fairs, and the American Royal at Kansas City, Mo. At the Albany County fair I won first place in the sheep club classes for best Corriedale ewe and lamb, ram

lamb, pen of five ewes, and first and second for yearling ewe and ewe lamb. In the open class I won second on flock, and third on ewe lamb and ram lamb and third and fifth on yearling ewe. At the state fair my sheep took first prize in the sheep club section for the best ewe and lamb, first and second for the best yearling ewe, and second for ram lamb; in club classes, first and second on ewe lamb and first on pen of five ewes; in

the open class for Corriedales, I received second places for my yearling ewe, ewe lamb, get of sire, flock and pen of four lambs bred by exhibitor. In the open class for Corriedales at the American Royal second prizes were awarded me for yearling ewe, pen of ram lambs, pen of ewe lambs, and flock, and fourth places for ewe lamb and ram lamb.

My record and story of my project won for me this year the State of Wyoming

Sheep Club Championship, and with it the Armour Trip to the Chicago International. I was very proud of this honor and glad of the opportunity to see so many things new to me. There were some six hundred other state 4H champions and we all stayed at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago. We had a very wonderful time; every day was filled with things to do and see, and I shall never forget it.

Laramie, Wyo.

Dick King

Methods and Rations for Fattening Lambs

III. Adding a Protein Supplement to Corn or Barley and Alfalfa Hay By W. G. Kammlade

Many lamb feeders say that it is advisable to use a protein supplement with corn or barley when fed with alfalfa hay. That good results may be secured without doing so has been shown in the previous articles in this series of reports.

No institution has studied this question more fully than Nebraska. This station reports on ten lots of lambs fed in the last few years. As a daily average the lambs in these ten groups were fed 1.33 pounds of shelled corn, .16 pound of linseed oil meal, and 1.20 pounds of alfalfa hay. The average daily gain was .38 pound and the feed required per pound of gain amounted to 3.6 pounds of corn, .37 pound of linseed oil meal and 3.2 pounds of alfalfa hay. Ten of the Nebraska lots reported in the November Wool Grower are comparable with these. They were fed a daily average of 1.29 pounds of shelled corn and 1.19 pounds of alfalfa hay. They gained .33 daily and required 4.0 pounds of corn and 3.7 pounds of hay per pound gain.

Here, at the Nebraska station then are 20 lots of lambs in which the additional .16 pound of linseed oil meal per day to a corn-alfalfa ration increased the average daily gain 15 per cent.

Linseed Oil Meal

It should be pointed out that in these Nebraska trials the linseed oil meal was a distinct addition to the ration. It was not used to replace a certain portion of the corn. Thus, the lambs fed the meal received a larger amount of feed and

consequently larger gains would be expected. The addition of the .16 pound of linseed oil meal resulted in a pound gain being produced for every 3.6 pounds of corn, .37 pound of meal and 3.2 pounds of hay fed to the lambs. Compared to similar lots of lambs fed only corn and alfalfa the .37 pound of meal replaced .1 pound of corn and .8 pound of hay in the production of one pound of gain. This is a saving of 2.7 per cent in the amount of corn and 20 per cent in the amount of hay required for each pound of gain. In other words, when a feeder adds 100 pounds of linseed oil meal to a ration of corn and alfalfa hay he can expect that 100 pounds to produce 15 per cent faster gain and to have that 100 pounds of meal save him 27 pounds of corn and 216 pounds of hay in producing that gain. Just as much corn and hay would have been fed in either case.

Doing without the 100 pounds of meal would have meant using about one-half bushel more of corn and a tenth of a ton more of hay to produce the same results.

These 20 lots of Nebraska lambs show that the feeder can afford to pay as much for a ton of linseed oil meal as he would pay for about 10 bushels of corn and two tons of alfalfa hay. There are circumstances when the meal may have a greater value because of the higher finish and dressing per cent which may be secured in a given length of time. Likewise, when a larger proportion of corn to hay is fed the meal may have a higher value.

The Minnesota Station at its West Central Branch at Morris, has reported work similar to, although not so extensive as, that at Nebraska. Five lots of

Feed Consumption, Daily Gain, and Feed Required Per Pound Gain When Lambs Were Fed Corn, Linseed Oil Meal, and Alfalfa Hay.

Station	No. of Days Fed	Feed—lbs.			Average Daily Gain	Feed per Pound Gain—lbs.		
		Corn	L.O.M.	Alfalfa		Corn	L.O.M.	Alfalfa
Minnesota	88	1.801	.20	1.12	.42	4.2	.46	2.6
	78	1.581	.20	1.27	.33	4.8	.61	3.9
	66	1.991	.20	1.14	.48	4.1	.42	2.4
	63	1.571	.20	1.39	.39	4.0	.51	3.6
	63	1.55	.20	1.35	.42	3.8	.47	3.2
Nebraska	80	1.04	.13	1.50	.29	3.6	.46	5.2
	50	1.42	.17	1.56	.41	3.5	.41	3.8
	50	1.31	.16	1.81	.43	3.1	.38	4.3
	59	1.40	.15	.80	.37	3.8	.40	2.2
	100	1.25	.17	.98	.31	4.1	.54	3.2
	110	1.18	.14	1.11	.29	4.0	.48	3.8
	60	1.65	.22	1.23	.55	3.0	.40	2.2
	98	1.31	.16	1.11	.40	3.2	.39	2.7
	112	1.42	.13	.70	.34	4.2	.39	2.1
	92	1.29	.14	1.17	.43	3.0	.33	2.7

(1) Fed as ear corn, figures on shelled corn basis.

lambs fed linseed oil meal as a supplement showed an average 10 percent greater daily gain than six similar lots fed only corn and alfalfa hay. By adding two-tenths of a pound of linseed oil meal to the daily ration of corn and hay a pound gain was produced with 4.2 pounds of corn, .49 pounds of linseed oil meal and 3.1 pounds of hay, compared to a requirement of 4.9 pounds of corn and 3.5 pounds of hay when no meal was fed. Thus, in the Minnesota tests .49 pound of linseed oil meal saved .7 pound of corn and .4 pound of hay per pound gain secured. This is a saving of 14 percent in corn and 11.5 percent in hay. Accordingly, based on these tests a feeder can pay, so far as cost per unit of gain is concerned, as much for a ton of linseed oil meal as he could for about 50 bushels of corn and four-fifths of a ton of hay. It is interesting to note that by using a cent a pound as the average price for corn and hay that there is only \$1.60 a ton difference in the value of linseed oil meal according to the Nebraska and Minnesota tests (\$45.60 and \$44).

Linseed Meal or Cottonseed Meal

A frequently asked question pertains to the relative value of protein supplements. Cottonseed meal is higher in protein content than linseed meal and is thought by some to be relatively more valuable than linseed meal. Results of recent tests with cottonseed meal or cake are shown in the following table:

Feed Consumption, Daily Gain, and Feed Required Per Pound Gain When Lambs Were Fed Corn, Cottonseed Meal, and Alfalfa Hay.

Station	No. of Days Fed	Average Daily Feed-lbs.			Average Daily Gain	Feed per Pound Gain-lbs.		
		Corn	C.S.M.	Alfalfa		Corn	C.S.M.	Alfalfa
Kansas	60	1.13	.15	.93	.30	3.7	.43	3.1
Minnesota	88	1.81 ¹	.20	1.12	.44	4.0	.44	2.6
"	78	1.54 ¹	.20	1.27	.31	5.1	.67	4.2
"	66	1.94 ¹	.20	1.14	.46	4.2	.44	2.5
Nebraska	80	1.04	.13	1.50	.30	3.5	.44	5.0
Texas	90	1.08 ²	.14	1.89	.39	2.8	.36	4.8
"	90	.88	.16	1.47	.31	2.8	.50	4.7 ³
"	105	.95	.14	1.63	.36	2.7	.39	4.6 ³
"	90	.95	.17	1.55	.40	2.5	.42	3.9 ³
"	70	1.34	.15	1.29	.40	3.3	.37	3.2 ³

(1) Fed as ear corn, figures on shelled corn basis.
(2) Ground shelled corn used in all Texas lots.

(3) Amount consumed.

Under certain conditions it may be true that cottonseed meal is more valuable but comparable lots of lambs showed very little evidence of it. When some roughage lower in protein content than alfalfa hay is used there may be more difference. Likewise, Minnesota reports that there is little difference between the two supplements but when the lots fed linseed meal are averaged and compared with the lots fed cottonseed there is some

other concentrates similarly supplemented. They are presented here however, and included in the average results shown.

Other Supplements

The other supplements used in recent experiments include corn gluten meal, soybean oil meal and combinations in equal proportions of two or three of the above. Apparently the lamb feeder may

Average of Results in Feeding Linseed Meal and Cottonseed Meal

Supplement Fed	Average Daily Feed-lbs.			Average Daily Gain	Feed per Pound Gain-lbs.		
	Corn	Supplement	Alfalfa		Corn	Supplement	Alfalfa
Linseed Oil Meal	1.45	.17	1.22	.39	3.8	.44	3.2
Cottonseed Meal	1.27	.16	1.38	.37	3.5	.45	3.9

suggestion that the linseed meal is a trifle more efficient. Protein quality may be a factor between the two supplements.

The results at the Texas station were not obtained in comparisons of supplements but in comparisons of corn and

use with equal assurance whichever is cheaper. There may be some advantage in using a mixture of three or more of the supplements rather than one alone but such has not been definitely demonstrated to date.

Feed Consumption, Daily Gain, and Feed Required Per Pound Gain When Lambs Were Fed Barley, Protein Supplement and Alfalfa Hay.

Station	No. of Days Fed	Average Daily Feed-lbs.			Average Daily Gain	Feed per Pound Gain-lbs.		
		Barley	C.S.M.	Alfalfa		Barley	C.S.M.	Alfalfa
California	65	1.04	.13	2.38	.27	3.9	.48	8.9
Colorado	127	.781	.23	2.56	.282	2.5	.74	8.4
Minnesota	63	1.59 ³	.204	1.36	.34	4.7	.59	4.0
Average of above		1.13	.19	2.10	.305	3.7	.60	7.1
Average of three comparable lots fed barley & hay		1.25		2.07	.20	4.3		7.0

(1) Trebi barley. (2) Based on selling weight. (3) Ground barley. (4) Linseed oil meal.
(5) Based on feed-lot weights.

Supplementing Barley and Alfalfa Hay

Not as much study has been given to the question of whether a protein supplement should be fed with barley and alfalfa hay as to supplementing corn and alfalfa hay. Based on the figures above, and on figures for comparable lots in the barley and alfalfa table previously shown, indications are that adding cottonseed meal or linseed oil meal to a ration of barley and alfalfa is not advisable, as the .6 of a pound of supplement required for each pound of gain just replaced .6 pound of barley. There was no significant change in the amount of hay. Since

barley is relatively richer in protein than corn one would expect less advantage in supplementing a ration of barley and alfalfa than in supplying a supplement to corn and alfalfa. Even in the latter ration the benefit of a supplement may not be as great as often supposed. Since the addition of a supplement to barley and alfalfa did not increase the rate of gain significantly, there is little reason to expect a higher finish or dressing percentage from its use.

ENFORCEMENT OF WYOMING FABRIC LAW SOUGHT

On the 18th of February five merchants out of six against whom charges of violation of the Wyoming Truth-in-Fabric Act were filed pleaded guilty and were fined. The fines were remitted, the purpose of the cases being to start the enforcement ball to rolling and not to penalize the merchants. The sixth firm pleaded not guilty and that case was set for March 5.

All of the complaints filed in connection with the Wyoming Fabric Act have so far been for failure to label. It has been deemed the best policy to proceed with these cases first—there are plenty of them—and then to take up the cases of mislabeling.

Kleber H. Hadsell

OHIO FABRIC BILL OPPOSED

A bill entitled "To Regulate the Marketing of Manufactured Products Containing Wool," recently introduced in the Ohio State Legislature is meeting with severe opposition from the retailers of the state.

The measure, which is similar to the Wyoming fabric law, calls for the labeling of woolen goods in one of the following ways. "(1) This article is composed of all virgin wool; (2) This article contains not less than — per cent of wool; (3) This article contains no virgin wool; (4) The manufacturer and wholesale vendor of this article upon request have refused to give information as to the true quantity of the virgin wool content of this article." Virgin wool is defined as wool that has never been spun, woven or knitted into any other yarn, fabric or cloth prior to its use in the article labeled.

Four years ago a bill along the same

lines as the one now before the Ohio legislature almost passed that body. In the present instance the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, the Ohio Retail Dry Goods Association, and the Ohio Retail Clothiers and Furnishers are putting up the fight against the bill. They base their opposition to it on the claim that it will

be "impossible for manufacturers to give the information required under the first three forms of labels" and the use of the fourth style will mislead the consumer as to the real worth of the fabric; also that it will be possible for unscrupulous manufacturers to give incorrect information on wool content without fear of detection.

Mr. Poole's Forecast of Feeder Trade

Cornbelt feeders will be in the market for lambs during the coming season. Physical conditions being right, they will buy early, late and often. Stock cattle will be high and after their beef making experience of the past winter they will be "off" heavy steers. Lambs have been profitable this winter which will bring old-timers back into the game, together with the inevitable crop of new feeders. And what is probable is that they will

the whole price list. Whenever a buying furore develops in feeding circles it must run its course. What occurred in the feeder cattle market last fall is evidence of this.

Severe weather all winter in the Northwest does not fortify expectancy of a big or even a normal lamb crop, which is another argument for high prices. The hog market will not be in the same rut as last summer so that there will be no



Finishing Lambs in an Oregon Feed Lot.

shoot at the January and February market as it was high this season. Experience has taught feeders that the last quarter of the year is a clean-up period for native lamb growers, probability being that the supply at that period will increase from now on. My bet is that feeders east of the Missouri River will exert a decided influence on feeding lamb values next fall in decided contrast to what they did last season when territory east of Chicago practically laid out of the trade.

Consensus of opinion in trade circles is that feeding lambs will sell \$1@1.50 per

hundredweight higher than last year which should prove a stout prop under cheap competitive meat. Beef will be high all summer, in fact it has been high all winter and is high now, the winter decline in cattle representing reaction from inflation last fall rather than depreciation.

Breeding stock will not be wanted at high prices, but this does not concern western flock owners as they are in a replacement campaign themselves. A hue and cry was raised against high cost of breeding stock in the farming sections

last fall, prices taking a sharp break when Kentucky requirements had been satisfied. However, there is evidence of a developing demand for ewes, prices at Indiana sales in February running from \$18 to \$23 per head, under keen bidding with not enough to go around. Yearling ewes at \$13.50 per hundredweight in Idaho with the wool off look high to eastern farmers. Those spending their own money may buy, but bankers are reluctant to furnish purchase money. The present and prospective status of the yearling ewe market discredits forecasts that maturing them would be unprofitable, probability being that present conditions will continue for several years. Any competition between East and West in breeding ewes will put values still higher which will automatically tend to repress eastern buying. Local demand in the West will probably absorb current yearling ewe supply at prices eastern farmers will balk at. This evinces good judgment as there is an ill-concealed hazard in every purchase made at high prices regard-

less of the commodity. Transversely when prices are low and the article possesses intrinsic value the investment is relatively safe. If farm flockers got into the sheep business during periods when ewes are cheap much of the tribulation they encounter in the subsequent, if not inevitable liquidation process would be avoided. Such liquidation is usually by incompetents who have no place in the industry. This is not written in a derogative way, but in view of the facts. A farm flock in competent hands is good property, but how far from competent the average farm flock owner is may be inferred from the condition and quality in which a large percentage of the native lamb crop reaches the butcher annually.

Plenty of snow in the Northwest should insure good feed and a large percentage of fat lambs which in turn will support feeder prices. Every scrap of handwriting on the market wall indicates not only good demand but good prices.

J. E. Poole

Sheepmen's Organizations in Farm States

Indiana

Members of the Indiana Sheep Growers Association met in their annual convention on January 16-17 at Lafayette. Instructive talks were given by J. F. Walker of Gambier, Ohio, W. F. Renk of Wisconsin, Dr. B. E. Pontius and Prof. Claude Harper of the state university. John Bright Webb of Indianapolis was made president of the association for another year and Claude Harper, secretary.

An appeal was made to the association members for a better wool display and also a better wether show at the state fair this year.

Iowa

The Iowa Sheep and Wool Growers Association held its annual meeting on January 30, sheep and wool day of the Iowa Farm and Home Week at Ames. Preceding the regular meetings judging demonstrations were given by J. G. Hammer and P. S. Shearer of the university, and methods of treating sheep for stomach worms were also shown by E. G. Uhl, C. W. McDonald and P. S. Shearer.

The report of the year's work of the

association proved the organization to be in an excellent condition. Officers for the year were chosen as follows: J. L. Bane, Bondurant, president; A. J. Blakeley, Grinnell, vice-president; Chas. Sexton, Ferguson, secretary-treasurer; and Arthur Leonard, Corning, and E. G. Uhl, Ames, executive committee men. These officers were chosen by the board of directors, composed of the following men: A. J. Secor, Keosauqua; C. J. Kelsey, Iowa Falls; E. G. Pont, Atlantic; G. E. Held, Hinton; John Bonner, Jewell; and W. W. Latta, Logan.

During a lamb luncheon, which was attended by one hundred or more, the sheepmen listened to several interesting talks by Dr. J. L. Coulter, president of the North Dakota Agricultural College; Mark Thornburg, state secretary of agriculture; A. T. Kearney, director of Swift's Research Bureau, Chicago; C. F. Curtis, dean of agriculture at the state university; President R. M. Hughes of the same institution, and H. H. Kildee. Mr. Kearney was also the principal speaker at the regular afternoon session, when he dis-

cussed some of the factors that influence the sheep and wool markets. A demonstration of dressing and cutting up a lamb on the farm concluded the meeting.

Liberal appropriations were made by the directors of the association for the premiums at the state fairs both for the open classes and those for club lambs.

Kentucky

The Kentucky Sheep and Wool Growers Association is composed of forty sheep farmers' organizations known as the Golden Hoof clubs. Several thousand farmers are enrolled in these clubs. Their objective is protective and educational in character. At the present time their efforts are exerted toward the enforcement of the state dog law. Educational work is along lines that will improve the sheep industry of the state.

Michigan

At recent meetings in East Lansing, Michigan, the purebred sheep breeders selected H. O. Skinner, Dimondale, as president, and M. H. Thornton of East Lansing as secretary; and the lamb feeders' organization made A. E. Illenden of Adrian president; A. C. Hayes of Ionia, vice-president; and V. A. Freeman of East Lansing, secretary.

As in other farm flock states, the dog is a constant source of tribulation to the sheepmen of Michigan. Strong and united efforts in several counties are achieving results and an enlargement of the campaign is hoped for.

A series of "Better Sheep" meetings conducted by the Michigan State College has been of great benefit to the sheepmen of the state. As most of the owners only run small farm flocks, difficulty and inconvenience are met in trying to secure proper breeding stock. To assist in solving this problem, the college officials in charge of the "Better Sheep" meetings brought with them to the gathering places truckloads of purebred sheep from which the farmers were able to make their selections. Shropshires, Hampshires, and Oxford are the most popular breeds.

Interest is also growing in the use of the upper peninsula farms for sheep raising. Agents of northern counties are supporting a plan of the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau to place more sheep in that district.

THE BOSTON WOOL MARKET

By Henry A. Kidder

The wool market has been suffering from a drastic depression on the part of mill buyers, coupled with an overloaded condition on the fine wool side, and a natural desire on the part of the wool trade to make a better showing than in 1928, at least to avoid actual loss. Substantial progress has been made in clearing the market of the carry-over of fine wool, reported unsold in the Boston market as of January 5. Latest estimates indicate that something like one-half the surplus has already been turned over to the mills, with the outward movement still in progress. There has been so little profit in the operation, however, that no seller is feeling very enthusiastic over the matter.

The policy of mill buyers has been to avoid doing anything to stimulate the market, fearing that wool prices might be so affected as later to force an advance from opening prices on goods. Stabilization is ever the cry of mill buyers, but apparently their interpretation of the word as applied to the wool trade is to prevent advances at all hazards, but to squeeze sellers to the limit.

It is a one-sided sort of stabilization, and yet it cannot be said that the attitude of manufacturers is not justified by actual conditions. The number of large manufacturing concerns making a less satisfactory showing than a year ago, indicates that mill managers also have their troubles. Some will say that the bad features of the situation are being exaggerated and the good features minimized by mill men and wool dealers in an effort to keep down the price of wool. There are no illusions of that kind held in the wool trade today, according to those best informed. Western wool growers are too well-informed to be misled by such outworn methods. Trade papers and government agencies are broadcasting trade conditions constantly, so that no good business man, either wool grower or wool dealer, can plead ignorance.

The most noticeable effect of current conditions as applied to the wool situation in the West has been in the matter of contracting. At this time a year ago, some-

thing like 120,000,000 pounds of wool was under contract in the Territory wool states and in Texas. Today, 3,000,000 pounds is considered a liberal estimate of the volume of wool already tied up in the 1929 contracts. Such a radical change in buying policy must have a reason somewhere. The wool trade still has ample capital and excellent credit, so that a reason for the change is not to be found in that direction.

The Arizona season has opened a little earlier than last year, and some of the growers have shown a disposition to meet the market, though this attitude may be influenced to some extent by the heavier shrinkage and unsatisfactory condition of some of the clips already shorn. Recent sales in that state have been reported at 24 to 35 cents, bulk at 28 to 30 cents, the highest price paid to date having been 36 cents for a single clip of undoubted excellence. Buyers are making every effort to keep the clean cost, landed Boston, under the dollar mark, for only thus is it possible to forecast a profit in the turnover.

Trade opinion is still divided as to whether this is to be really "a consignment year." Under ordinary conditions the lack of contracting could be depended upon to assure that result, and majority opinion has thus far generally inclined to that result. Recent experience in Arizona has done something to modify this belief and to strengthen the position of those who have inclined to the belief that the growers would sell when the wool is shorn.

Current talk here indicates a belief that the season is too far advanced for any contracting of moment to set in, unless something entirely unexpected happens to stimulate the market. Early reports of an unfavorable character regarding the effect of weather conditions on the new Territory clip have been confirmed, and it is recognized that buying wool on the sheep's back is this year much more of a gamble than usual.

There has undoubtedly been quite a movement in fine wool in recent weeks, though it is not denied that much of the

wool, especially of Texas twelve-months' growth, has been sold at prices showing a definite loss from original cost. The market established on current sales of twelve-months' wool is not over \$1.05 to \$1.08 clean, though it is claimed that a few choice lots have been placed on the shelf until the market recovers. Heavier lots have sold for even less money, and though large weights of wool have been moved, financial returns are far from satisfactory. Eight-months' wool has been scarce, and an offering of 100,000 pounds at a local sealed bid sale has attracted some attention, though it is not known whether buyers' and sellers' prices coincide. One of the anomalous conditions in today's market is that the best fall Texas wools are quotable fully up to the level of eight-months' and nearly as high as twelve-months', all available wool being in strong hands.

Mill buyers' interest in Territory wools appears to be mainly centered around lots of a French combing character. The best of the recent offerings have been moved at grease prices showing a clean cost of about \$1.03 to \$1.05, but lots not quite so desirable in quality and appearance have sold at the dollar mark, even less, if all stories are to be believed. Only a nominal quotation is available for choice fine and fine medium staple wool. For Montana and similar lots the holders are asking \$1.08 to \$1.10 clean, but no sales are reported at these figures. Fine clothing wools appear to be scarce, as most of this grade is being thrown into the French combing pile. About 95 to 98 cents is believed to be a fair price.

Half-blood wools continue to have the right of way, not only in demand but also in price. The best of these wools, Montana and similar, are bring up to \$1.10 clean, while choice long-stapled wools, though nominally quoted at the same figure, are practically unsalable. It is believed that a good range for half-blood wools in today's market is \$1.08 to \$1.10 for Montanas, and \$1.03 to \$1.05 for Triangle wools. Medium grades have also eased off a little in price, though generally quiet owing to lack of offerings. Three-eighths-bloods have sold at \$1.03 to \$1.05, some Montana lots having

brought the higher figure. Not over 95 to 97 cents clean can be quoted for the best lots of quarter-bloods with average lots at 92 to 93 cents.

Ohio and similar fleece wools from the Middle West have shown some recession in values during the past month, though they have perhaps held their relative price position as well as could be expected in a dull market. Some lots of Delaine have sold at 45½ cents, but at the end of the month not over 45 cents can be quoted, even for the best. Fine unwashed clothing has sold at 40 cents, and is now quotable at 39 to 40 cents. Half-blood combing remains about the strongest thing on the list, sales having been made during the month within the range of 50 to 52 cents, and that is about the quotation today, though there is noted a softening tendency.

There has been some movement lately in California wools. Northern wool of good character, though not perhaps the best, has sold at \$1 to \$1.03 clean, and Middle Counties at 95 to 97 cents. Baled, scoured and carbonized California wool continues to sell within the range of 95 cents to \$1.

The position of strictly woolen wools improves very slowly. The season is now open on overcoatings, and a better demand for all scoured and pulled wools, and also for noils and other wool wastes, is expected.

The situation in Australia has been attracting considerable attention of late, especially in the Sydney market, where prices have been lower. The Australian season is now well along, though later than last year, owing to the effect of strikes earlier on the part of dock workers. Good Australian 64s to 70s are now selling in Australia at prices that bring them into direct competition with best fine staple wools of domestic growth, whether Ohio Delaines, fine and fine medium staple Territory or twelve-months' Texas. The same is measurably true of 64s and 60s to 64s Merinos. The Melbourne market has shown a little stronger tendency of late, but competition with domestic wools of similar character is still indicated.

On the medium side of the market similar competition is in sight from Montevideo and Concordia wools, which can be laid down here clean, duty paid, at about the parity of domestic medium grades, when due allowance has been made for better skirting and packing of the River Plate wools.

As this is written the wool trade is looking forward with a great deal of interest to the opening of the second series of the London wool sales for 1929. It is expected that offerings will be about 150,000 bales, and it is predicted that prices will open 5 to 7½ per cent below the level of the January closing. Just what effect such weakening in foreign markets would have upon domestic wool values is yet an open question.

WOOL SHORN IN 1927 AND 1928

The amount of wool shorn in the United States in 1928 was 299,113,000 pounds, compared to 281,914,000 in 1927 and 260,976,000 in 1926, according to the revised estimates of 1928 and 1927 wool production of the United States Department of Agriculture. The increased production in 1928 compared to 1927 was 17,199,000 pounds or 6.1 per cent. These figures include estimates of fall shorn wool in states where double shearing is practiced. Pulled wool production, not included above, is estimated at 51,900,000 pounds for 1928 compared to 50,100,000 in 1927 and 49,600,000 in 1926.

Increased production of fleece wool during 1928 was due largely to an increased number of sheep shorn with a small increase in average weight per fleece. The number of sheep shorn in 1928 is estimated at 38,364,000 compared to 36,570,000 in 1927. The average weight per fleece was 7.8 pounds in 1928 and 7.7 in 1927.

The estimate of pulled wool production is based on reports from wool pulling establishments. The increased production of pulled wool in 1928 was due to a material increase in the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered.

The accompanying table shows the revised estimates of production and weight per fleece by states for 1927 and 1928.

Wool Shorn 1927 and 1928

(Revised Estimates January, 1929)

	1927 Wool Production Lbs.	Weight Per Fleece (1) Lbs.	1928 Wool Production Lbs.	Weight Per Fleece (1) Lbs.
Ohio	15,662,000	8.2	15,826,000	8.2
Indiana	4,088,000	7.3	4,307,000	7.3
Illinois	4,162,000	7.5	3,724,000	7.6
Michigan	8,272,000	8.0	8,520,000	8.0
Wisconsin	2,774,000	7.6	2,808,000	7.8
Minnesota	4,211,000	7.9	4,661,000	7.9
Iowa	5,896,000	8.0	5,960,000	8.0
Missouri	5,523,000	7.0	5,962,000	7.2
No. Dakota....	3,469,000	8.3	3,984,000	8.3
So. Dakota....	5,160,000	8.0	5,644,000	8.3
Nebraska	2,442,000	6.6	2,370,000	7.9
Kansas	1,986,000	7.3	2,442,000	7.4
Tot. 12 States	63,645,000	7.8	66,208,000	7.9
Kentucky..	3,845,000	4.8	4,051,000	4.7
Tennessee	1,174,000	4.3	1,287,000	4.1
Alabama	155,000	3.6	184,000	3.4
Mississippi	198,000	3.2	115,000	3.1
Arkansas	220,000	4.9	207,000	4.6
Louisiana	286,000	3.4	282,000	3.2
Oklahoma	562,000	7.7	615,000	7.5
Texas	32,725,000	8.5	35,591,000	8.4
Tot. 8 States	39,165,000	7.5	42,332,000	7.4
Montana	24,166,000	8.6	26,626,000	8.6
Idaho	15,840,000	8.8	17,885,000	9.2
Wyoming	25,317,000	8.7	26,488,000	8.8
Colorado	8,118,000	7.3	8,831,000	7.6
N. Mexico ..	12,600,000	6.0	12,400,000	5.8
Arizona	6,240,000	6.0	5,760,000	6.0
Utah	19,975,000	8.5	22,072,000	8.9
Nevada	8,015,000	7.3	8,580,000	7.5
Washington	4,753,000	9.8	5,000,000	10.0
Oregon	18,128,000	8.8	20,332,000	9.2
California	23,800,000	7.0	23,800,000	6.8
Tot. 11 States	166,952,000	7.9	177,774,000	8.0
Tot. 9 States:				
Maine				
New Hampshire				
Vermont				
Massachusetts				
Rhode Island				
Connecticut				
New York				
New Jersey				
Pennsylvania	6,777,000	7.3	7,002,000	7.2
Tot. 8 States:				
Delaware				
Maryland				
Virginia				
West Virginia				
No. Carolina				
So. Carolina				
Georgia				
Florida	5,375,000	5.1	5,797,000	5.1
Total for				
United States	281,914,000	7.7	299,113,000	7.8
Pulled Wool (2)...	50-100,000		51,900,000	
(1) In states where sheep are shorn twice a year this figure covers wool per head of sheep shorn and not weight per fleece.				
(2) Not included in U. S. total.				

News and Views of the Lamb Markets

CHICAGO

A short February run of lambs was offset by a dressed market that acted sticky, resisting sales pressure. The short run was due to light loading in Colorado, which practically dominated the market. The only sharp break occurred early in the third week of the month when Colorado's run at the market expanded temporarily, whereupon the forces of orderly marketing in that neck of the woods contracted the movement, putting prices back to the high level of the season.

Measured from every angle it was a good market. An unrecorded Chicago sale at \$17.85 was made by a speculator and was obviously out of line, \$17.50 being the practical top, and paid numerously by speculators or traders. Packers occasionally went to \$17.25, but had their peg in the \$17 hole most of the time, shippers buying in close sorts within the \$17@17.50 range. Under the \$17 line sorting was either light or moderate depending on whether killers were buying for numbers or ran into hard picking temporarily. Only feeders and off-qualified natives sold below the \$16 line, heavy shearing lambs going to the country at that figure. So urgent were killers' needs, however, that feeders were able to get few lambs out of the run. Killers grabbed practically the entire package of "on-the-line" stuff, lambs with just enough kill to justify hanging the carcasses on the meat rail.

An epitome of the month's price happenings follows:

Week ending February 2: Top lambs \$17.65, bulk \$16.25@17.25. Top feeders \$15, bulk \$13.75@14.85. Top ewes \$10-\$15.75, bulk \$15@15.50. Top yearlings \$50, bulk \$8.50@10.25. A few two-year-old wethers made \$11.75.

Week ending February 9. Top lambs \$17.50, bulk \$16.25@17.25. Top feeders \$15.50, bulk \$15@15.50. Top yearlings \$14.65, bulk \$14.35@14.65. Top ewes \$10, bulk \$8.50@9.50. Wethers \$11.25@11.50.

Week ending February 16: Top lambs \$17.35, bulk \$16@17. Top feeders \$16, bulk \$15@15.50. Top yearlings \$14.50,

bulk \$13@14.50. Top ewes \$9.50, bulk \$8@9.50.

Week ending February 23: Top lambs \$17.85, bulk \$16@17. Top feeders \$16, bulk \$15@15.50. Top ewes \$9.25, bulk \$8@9.

Short week at the month end: Top lambs \$17.50, bulk \$16.50@17.10. Feeding lambs \$15.50@16. Fat ewes \$8@9.25.

Barring the break early in the week ending February 23, it was an uneventful month. Heavy direct receipts at Chicago from Denver caused that break, but the Colorado feeders' organization for orderly marketing promptly applied corrective measures by starving the Denver market the next week, which forced killers and shippers into competition at other markets with the result that prices rebounded to the season's high level. Otherwise prices were well maintained all through the month, occasional 25-cent fluctuations being found in the sort rather than the price.

Even at the low point of the third week few desirable lambs sold below \$16.50 on paper. Some got down to \$16, but they lacked quality and rarely was the top pushed below \$17. At intervals the spread between "inbetween" and good lambs became narrow, an out-of-line condition that invited correction, although when killers are under the necessity of buying for numbers, this condition is customary.

J. E. Poole

OMAHA

As was the case in January, February fat lamb prices at Omaha averaged the highest during that month since 1925. As the month opened, the margin over corresponding 1928 levels amounted to around \$2 per hundredweight but most of the time prices averaged \$1.00@1.50 above a year ago. Barring extremes one way or the other, quotations held within substantially the same bounds as during January, but closing sales stood 25@40 cents over the end of the preceding month.

Supplies fell around 20,000 head short of February, 1928, at approximately 226,-

000 head. The volume held up well until mid-month, but fell off during the last two weeks from corresponding 1928 figures. There was evidence of cooperation among western feeders in maintaining an even flow of lambs at eastern markets, but occasionally heavy late-week runs at some western points depressed the following week's early trade in the East.

Price fluctuations followed closely the receipts trend. On the 27th the top hit \$17.15, a new peak for the current fed season and highest since last June. At that time the bulk brought \$16.50@17.00 but the break that came with an influx of lambs on the last day of the month carried the top down to \$16.65 and the bulk dropped to \$16.00@16.50. This spread also caught bulk of all killers sold during the four-week period, with the opening finding most of them going at \$15.75@16.00; some sales of heavy lambs down to \$15.50, and at times below this figure.

Demand for lambs on both local and shipping account was strong most of the time. As high as one-third of the total receipts went east for slaughter. Buyers were apparently out for numbers more than anything else and a good many heavy and half-fat lambs got by at prices right up with the handyweights. Despite the fact that packers reported comparatively low yields, they bought a good many lambs with a thin or half-fat end at prices right at or near the top. Lambs up around 100 pounds also sold well up near the lighter weights on a good many days.

From now on it looks as though the western feeder will constitute the main source of supply. Lambs are reported pretty well shipped out in the East and some quarters look for a late movement of Californias to market because of cold weather and feeding conditions not of the best in that section. The market for the balance of the fed season should, therefore, be on a receipts basis.

Feeding lambs were none too numerous at any time, although shipments of feeders back to the country showed a substantial gain over February, 1928, at slightly over 17,000 head. Demand came mainly from

local feeders, who absorbed the bulk at \$15.00@15.50, and on up to \$15.90 for choice ones at the best time. Heavy snows and generally inclement weather tended to keep inquiry for shearing stock at a minimum, but toward the close there was some broadening in the demand for this class of stuff.

Demand for fat ewes was slow at times, due to lower trends of eastern dressed mutton markets. With some improvement in the latter late in the month, there was a reaction in prices paid for fat ewes that put them well in line with those of late January at the finish. At \$9.00@9.50 for the best, with an extreme top of \$9.75 paid by shippers for one small lot on the last day of the month, quotations generally held above corresponding 1928 levels until in the late trade. Trade in feeding and breeding ewes was seasonably light.

K. H. Kittoe

KANSAS CITY

February was another satisfactory month in the sheep market calendar. The top price for lambs in Kansas City did not fall below \$16 on any day during the month and the extreme high point, \$16.75, was paid on February 27. However the unfortunate bunching of receipts, 15,300 in Denver, mostly on freight paid to the river, and 19,000 in Omaha, on the last day of the month gave killers a strong position and they depressed quotations 25 cents. The February close saw the bulk of the good lambs bringing \$16.25 to \$16.50, as compared with \$15.50 to \$16.10 on the January close and \$14.25 to \$14.75 on the December close. The bulk of the February run were lambs that brought \$16 to \$16.50. The market was not free of violent fluctuations but prices were high enough to return feeders a good profit. On several occasions the supply was bunched too heavily at a few markets and this is a condition that feeders will have to watch more closely in order to get best results.

Weather conditions were unusually severe. Much of the feeding area encountered severe cold accompanied by heavy snowfall, and in many places cold rains and frozen feed lots detracted from sat-

isfactory gains. This in a way may develop to an advantage, for it will keep the supply that is to be marketed within the next sixty days within suitable average weights.

Killers have made less than normal discrimination against heavyweight lambs, though it is probable that the margin will be enlarged as the season advances. Only an occasional lot of shorn lambs was offered, but within the next few weeks weather conditions will warrant the clipping of heavyweight lambs, especially if the wool is not in very good condition. While prices may not go much higher for winter-fed lambs, on the other hand there is no condition in sight that will cause any material setback, especially if remaining supplies on feed are distributed properly.

Fat ewes the middle of the month touched the \$10 level but turned down 50 cents to \$1, with closing quotations showing a range of \$7.50 to \$9.25. Several lots of yearlings in fleece brought \$13 to \$14.50. No material sized bunches of wethers arrived. Some of the ewes showed extreme age and were not very fat. Good smooth ewes and fat yearlings would be attractive offerings for killers.

Lack of supplies of thin lambs kept the feeder trade down to small proportions. Including pickup and some fairly sizable bunches, prices for feeding lambs ranged from \$14.50 to \$15.75. There is considerable inquiry for breeding ewes, and this outlet will broaden as the season advances.

February receipts were 117,184 compared with 129,005 in the same month last year. For the two months this year they were 277,619 compared with 264,002 in January-February 1928.

All reports available indicate that the spring lamb crop is not going to hold up to early expectations. Many areas in the corn belt have had an extremely severe winter. Some of the range states were short on feed to begin the winter and on top of this came severe cold. It is not out of line with conditions to anticipate a rather low per cent lamb crop this spring. Mutton and dressed lamb tonnage cannot be safely estimated in advance.

C. M. Pipkin.

ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for February were 144,074 compared with 143,335 last month and 157,468 the same month a year ago. The lamb market during the month, though very uneven, was on a high level and closing prices are 50 cents higher than at the close of January. Top fed unshorn lambs sold on the close at \$16.65, with bulk of sales at \$16.50, and others down to \$16.00, the latter weighing 104 pounds. The high point of the month was \$16.65 and the lowest was \$16.85. Clipped lambs sold up to \$15.00 on late days. Feeding lambs were in good demand throughout the month, sales ranging from \$15.00@15.60, with shearers \$15.50@15.75. Aged sheep closed around 25 cents lower. Best ewes on the close sold at \$9.00 with choice kinds quoted up to \$9.50. Yearlings sold \$13.50@14.00, and wethers \$10.00@12.50.

H. H. Madden

CALIFORNIA BANKERS SUPPORT SHEEPMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Bankers in California are conversant and in sympathy with the undertakings of those employed in the industries of the state. This can also be said of bankers in other states. The Californians however go further and inform the public as to the character of the undertakings as is evidenced by the following statement placed in a Marysville paper as an advertisement of the Decker-Jewett Bank of that city.

The Sheepmen's Program

The promotion program carried on by California Wool Growers Association through the National Association is of interest to all sheep owners. By means of lamb-cutting demonstrations and other means, the demand for this product is being gradually increased, thereby stabilizing at a satisfactory figure the return to the sheep-raiser.

We congratulate sheepmen of the Tahoe district upon their progressive program. Surely their Association deserves hearty cooperation in its efforts to protect the prosperity of the industry.

DECKER-JEWETT BANK
Marysville California

Commercial Savings Since 1858

The Wool Grower has also received a copy of a Ferndale, California, paper carrying a similar advertisement for the Ferndale Bank.

WOOL MARKETING AND FINANCING

(Continued from page 24).

thought it was, or it means that world and domestic wool markets declined during the time the wool was in the hands of the consignment house or cooperative. Both are conditions over which the marketing agency whether private or cooperative, had no control.***

Getting a higher price than one's neighbor is often the test by which a cooperative is measured. This is not entirely a fair one. It is common knowledge in the trade that the better clips are taken first by dealers who have handled them for years. The picking off of these best clips naturally leaves less desirable clips, which, in turn, are consigned or are sent to cooperatives. It is not humanly possible for anyone to get for these clips, which sometimes are heavier in shrinkage and less desirable in character, the same price that the better wools brought.

Neither is it possible when markets decline to net a man as much for his wools as if it were sold earlier in the year. Some growers have come to the conclusion that selling earlier in the year is the best time because in many instances during the past few years that has been the case. Wool markets in the country have been on a decline since 1924. At the same time, records plainly show that since 1888, an average of four years out of five, according to Fairchild's Index, wools are higher during the mill consuming season of fall and winter than at the time they are shorn. It is only natural that this should be true, in spite of these declining markets that we have experienced the past two years when dealers handling wool took large losses. If it were true over a long period of years that wools were always higher at shearing time when the American wool growers are competing with each other to dump 300 million pounds of wool on this market, there would soon be a reversal in wool trade practices, and wools instead of being bought by dealers in the spring would be bought in the fall or early winter when they were cheaper.***

Cooperative wool marketing in a territory always raises the local prices paid by dealers. This advance in price is

shared in by non-members without expense to them. Many large growers have frankly stated to us that they have used the cooperative as an instrument to raise dealers' bids, threatening to join the cooperative if dealers did not pay certain prices. We have had clips this past year where the grower told us that he got the buyer up as much as 2 cents a pound in a comparatively short time by threatening to join. A cooperative is directly responsible for this condition but it gets no credit for it. At the same time, it creates by its competition a high price which it must exceed in order to satisfy some of its grower members. This is hardly fair to it. The question which the wool grower should ask himself is: "What would the prices of wool be if there were no strong wool cooperatives operating in the territory and offering a haven of safety to which the grower can send his wool, be financed, and be assured that it will be sold at its full market value?" No cooperative or any other agency should state it can get more for wool than somebody else. It can get no more than the market for the wool, and the price at which it sells its wool is approximately the same price at which the dealers sell their wool, as wools when they are being sold to the mill are all sold at a fairly even clean price when that mill is in the market to buy wool.

All a cooperative can do is to see that the producer of good wools gets the full value of his wool based on its quality, grade and shrinkage, at the time it is sold, and it is safe to say that any producer who consistently pursues this course for over a period of years will find that he has profited considerably over the former method of selling.

An ideal situation, as the average range grower pictures it, is to sell his wool at full market value at shearing time for cash. This is rather difficult to do. To get full market value for a clip which it has taken twelve months to produce requires that it be sold to the ultimate consumer, which is the manufacturer, in the best merchantable condition possible, which means graded and well packed, at the time he desires it.

There is no way that we can devise, or anyone else can devise, which will

secure this price for the grower. If he must sell for cash in the country he will have to take the price the dealer offers, which is the dealer's idea of what the wool can be safely purchased for and resold at a fair profit.

The chief difficulty with several of the wool cooperatives at the present time is operating with an insufficient volume of wool. Some of the large cooperatives, such as our own, have set up adequate machinery under an experienced personnel to market efficiently in the most approved manner double or treble the volume of wool they are now handling. Lack of volume has prevented these cooperatives from making as great a reduction in marketing costs as would be possible with greater volume. Reduction of marketing costs is one of the aims of the movement. Lack of volume, particularly regarding ample supplies of certain needed grades, has made it difficult to supply manufacturing customers with all their requirements. The remedy lies in enlisting the support of more growers in the cooperative wool marketing movement, and later the consolidation of the many small wool marketing organizations in the country now operating independently into one strong organization.

Cooperatives have at the present time, and will have under future legislation which is now in the process of formation, benefits conferred upon them under the law which are denied private for-profit organizations. Wool growers should give serious consideration to this. This will take the form of liberal credits to cooperatives, which in turn, are passed on to their members: funds for plants, warehouses and processing facilities will be available; and every assistance will be rendered by the government in furthering the activities of cooperative organizations. This is because after the most careful study and examination by the best brains available in Washington and by leaders of industry, cooperative marketing organizations seem best to afford that relief for our producers which is desired by business men in order to restore the purchasing power of our farmers and again make profitable the business of agriculture.

Uniform Wool Contract Adopted for California Buying

Members of the San Francisco Wool Trade Association and the Boston Wool Trade Association have announced their agreement to make wool purchases only under the terms of a uniform style of contract which has been made public.

Boston concerns announced some time ago that they would operate this year under uniform styles of contracts that would be drawn up to meet conditions and requirements in different states.

In the California contract printed below, tag discounts are provided for whether tags are separately sacked or not, although the rate of discount is less when tags are kept separate.

Wool Committee, of the San Francisco Wool Trade Association.

I wish to state, as Chairman of the Better Wool Committee of the San Francisco Wool Trade Assn. that the main object of this new Wool Sales Agreement adopted by the San Francisco Wool Trade Assn. and published by you is to get in the future a better California wool to market in the East with the manufacturer. It was adopted to establish a standard so that there would be no further question as to what was in bags of California wool when they are offered for sale to the manufacturer.

Primarily also it is to place the seller in a position to guarantee a sale to the manufacturer that will avoid any come-back or claim after the wool is sold and opened. If the tags in question are in the bags the allowance that is to be given the buyer can in turn be given to the manufacturer and the tags packed separately can be kept here and either sold or scoured by the local buyer, as they need not

As you well know, in all states with the exception of California, there has always been a deduction for tags and other offs that could always be allowed for when the manufacturer purchased the wool in the East. The new wool sales agreement will not give the grower less for his wool, as the aim is to give him more for his better packed article which has to be resold after arrival in the East. The local buyer can pay more and will pay more knowing as he will that there are to be no deductions or comeback after the wool is opened in the East prior to being consumed. He will be placed in a position to figure the shrinkage of all wool more accurately and to the advantage of the grower, as he will not have to guess the amount of tags and offs that are in the wool as a matter of protection to himself and possibly give the grower the worst of the deal, as was necessary in the past.

We figure in the future when good, clean, well packed lots of California wools are purchased by manufacturers in the East the brands on these lots will be taken by them, the lot numbers recorded and the local buyer will be requested the following season to again try and get lot number so-and-so with a certain brand, or lot so-and-so sold to them the previous season.

We figure with this new form of Wool Sales Agreement that all kicks and claims and also knocking as far as California wools are concerned will be a thing of the past, as they will be standardized and have quick and ready sale. The old remark of, "There are too many offs in California wools" will be in the discard. Our wools will command their proper price and obtain their proper place in the market competition. They cannot then say, "Give me anything but California wool," as many of the larger mills have done for some time and many more have done recently, which was all due to excessive offs and no deductions being allowed for them.

The San Francisco Wool Trade Assn. is for the grower and better wool and all it asks for is the full cooperation of the grower along these lines to get our California wools their proper place in the sun.

"BURDIZZO" PINCERS

A new instrument for the docking and castration of lambs is being widely used in California and other states this season. This is the "Burdizzo", named after its inventor, and manufactured in Italy.

This instrument is constructed to sever the cords above the testicle by squeezing them inside the scrotum. There is no cutting or bleeding and the testicles are completely prevented from developing. The prevention of loss of blood is a great advantage and in some sections where flies and screw worms are troublesome a great deal of risk and work are saved. Different sizes and styles are made for different animals.

The California Wool Growers Association is handling the "Burdizzo" and has received a great many letters as to its merits from sheepmen who have used it.

THE CALIFORNIA WOOL CONTRACT

No buyer or employee of John Doe Wool Co. has authority to change the printed terms of this contract

Lot.....

Date.....

Town.....

Dollars, received by me/us as part

In Consideration of.....

of.....

payment, I/we.....

have sold and agree to deliver to JOHN DOE WOOL CO. of San Francisco, Calif., or his

representative, free on board cars at.....

on or about.....

....., 19....., our entire 19..... clip of.....

wool from about..... ewes..... wethers..... bucks, about.....

pounds, at..... cents per pound, subject to the following terms and conditions of sale:

Fine, Rambouillet, and Grade Bucks, also any clear wool from dead sheep at half price. Buck fleeces not packed separately are to be figured at sixteen pounds each. Corral sweepings and murrain dead wool are not included in this contract.

Tare on bags four pounds each. Bags not to be charged for.

To adjust the Tags and Crutchings, the following deductions are to be made from the total net weight of the wool: 3 per cent on twelve months wool where tags are not separately sacked; 1½ per cent on twelve months wool where tags are separately sacked; 2 per cent on eight months spring wool where tags are not separately sacked; one per cent on eight months spring wool where tags are separately sacked.

Black wool to be packed separately, and if so packed, will be paid for at full price.

Balance of purchase money to be paid at time of delivery.

I agree to pay interest on the above-mentioned part payment and any additional advance payments at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, excepting such advances as are made within thirty days from date of delivery.

We guarantee wool to be in good merchantable condition in all respects. Well Tied, Honestly Packed, Dry and free from Dip, Sisal Twine, Sand, and an excessive amount of BURRS and/or SPEAR GRASS. We will defend the title of said wool in favor of JOE DOE WOOL CO. against any and all persons whomsoever. Our sheep are branded.....

Mortgaged to.....

Address.....

Witness.....

For.....

We....., holding mortgage on sheep described in this contract, consent to sale as made and release all our rights to the wool in favor of JOHN DOE WOOL CO., and acknowledge having received one dollar and other valuable considerations.

The announcement published in California contained no reference to the position to be taken by Chicago and St. Louis dealers.

The following statement, relative to the California contract appeared in the California Wool Grower over the signature of James P. Cronin, chairman of the Better

be shipped with the wool. California wools have yearly been getting harder to sell in the East. The fact of the matter is they are at the present time the hardest wool in the entire United States to sell. This is due to the fact that there has always been an excessive amount of offs in the wools when they are sold in the original bags, which cannot be allowed for under the old system by the seller, as there was no allowance made here when the wool was originally purchased by the local buyer who in turn had to sell it.

AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

(Continued from page 18)

Ludlow

It has been cold and we have had some disagreeable winds that have hurt the stock. The ranges are fair (February 15); those that were covered in November and December are now cleared. I think the winter loss will be about 10 per cent greater than a year ago and our feed will cost about 15 per cent more. The present price range on alfalfa hay is \$14 to \$17 when fed out of the stack and \$17 to \$22.50 when baled and delivered.

Personally I like the way the sheepmen of Texas sell their wool, especially in the San Angelo district. I think the organization of wool growers in this district would be a good move.

I do not think the Biological Survey work helps the sheepmen very much. I also do not favor a bounty law, but do not know how the other sheepmen around here feel about it.

Geo. H. McDermott

Limon

We have had a very cold winter, but all livestock are wintering fair to good. Our principal feed is cake with some hay or rough feed for storms. In spite of the cold winter no particularly heavy loss has occurred and we have only fed about the usual amount of cake. There has not been very much snow, however.

The Survey does not work in this section and hence I think we should have a bounty on coyotes.

Very few of the lambs in this locality are kept for breeding; sheep numbers are increasing, however.

Money on sheep can be borrowed at 8 per cent.

Brett Gray

ARIZONA

Cold weather with a great deal of snow cover resulted in a general shrinkage of livestock, though the milder weather toward the close was an improvement. Snow depths decreased generally, largely through evaporation, and without much run-off; consequently watering places were low in some sections. Sheep shearing is now progressing satisfactorily in

the southern portion after an interruption due to snow. The range is developing favorably in the warmer parts of the state.

Thatcher

Unusually cold and stormy weather, practically all the moisture of the winter, came to us during February. Losses on the range have been light, but our feed bill is very high. Hay in the stack is now priced at \$27.50, and baled, it is offered at \$30.

In this locality we receive no benefit from the Biological Survey, and it is generally felt that it would be better to take the money that is paid in salaries to these hunters and use it for bounties. We think it quite unfair that we should have to pay a special tax to provide funds for bounties, but if that is the only way we can get such funds, would rather pay the tax.

The sheep business in this county is practically new and the banks do not seem to give it the place it deserves in their considerations. There is also a lot of prejudice among some cattlemen against sheep; not all of them, however.

Banks will loan 60 per cent of the value of bred ewes at 10 per cent interest.

Feeling here favors a radical change in our wool selling methods.

A. N. Brimhall

NEW MEXICO

Seasonal weather prevailed, with moderate temperatures most of the time, except for a severe cold snap early in the month over the northern portion. Snow has covered the northern ranges but the ground has been largely bare in the south, where more moisture is needed. Ranges are mostly fair and livestock are doing well. Most vegetation is still dormant.

CALIFORNIA

Generally clear, cold, frosty weather prevailed, which was hard on lambing flocks. Most livestock are in poor to fair condition, and pastures and ranges generally are needing rain and warm weather. Pastures are poor in northern counties.

Woodland

We are very much in need of rain (February 22) as the sheepmen are short

of grass which compels them to feed quite heavily. Some lambs are looking good, but most of them are thin.

F. N. Bullard

Lower Lake

It has been cold and very dry up to the present (February 5). Hardly any one feeds their sheep in this section, except a little grain at times. The range, however, is very short now.

The dog law that we hope to get passed during this session of the legislature would pay \$2.00 for males and \$3.00 for females. I think this is sufficient. I believe there are half as many dogs in the state as there are sheep, but if we ask for too heavy a tax, we won't get any.

My opinion of the Biological Survey work is that it is O. K. If it had not been for them, there would not have been one-third as many sheep in Lake County.

There ought to be some change in the methods of marketing our wool, but what it shall be is very difficult to say.

J. H. Denison

WESTERN TEXAS

Abnormally cold weather early in the month with considerable snow was hard on livestock. But temperatures moderated and much of the snow disappeared relieving the stress on livestock. Rains have been plentiful locally, but some sections are dry. Ranges and livestock are poor to good, though livestock suffered some shrinkage early in the month.

TEXAS**Pampa**

There were a few real cold spells during February, but generally the month was fair. Few losses have occurred, but our feed is higher, with alfalfa in the stack now quoted at \$18 to \$22 and baled at \$36 a ton.

I think the majority of the wool growers here are anxious to cooperate in the selling of their wools, but up to the present nothing has been done.

The Biological Survey does great work, but we have not yet been able to have it applied in our section. Personally I would gladly pay a bounty tax to help the predatory animal control work along, but

FOR SALE
2400 HEAD YEARLING EWES

To be delivered out of shearing pens Wamsutter or Rawlins, Wyoming.
 These ewes are bred from Rambouillet Ewes and Lincoln Bucks.
 For Further Information, Call or Write
ISADORE BOLTEN, Rawlins, Wyoming

TRADE MARK
Bloodless "BURDIZZO" Castration

MARK YOUR SMALL LAMBS
 With the BABY "BURDIZZO" Pincers



FOR DOCKING AND CASTRATION

Fig. 1—Close Pincers on sack. Open, and let the lamb run. The skin is not cut. The testicles will wither away in the sack.

Fig. 2—Immediately after the operation: Actual photograph of young lamb, showing that the bag was not cut or otherwise damaged AND THE TAIL DID NOT BLEED. After the first squeeze the lamb seems to take no more notice of the operation.

Fig. 3—Wether who was castrated and docked when two months old. The bag is reduced to a handful of fat, which provides the "talking point" for the best market prices.

**Old Lambs Easily Castrated Without Losing a Drop of Blood.
 No Danger of Blow-Fly. Any Season Is Good.
 Anyone Can Do It**

Send a Post Card With Your Address For Illustrated
 Pamphlet Free, Without Obligation, To

PACIFIC COAST DISTRIBUTORS

California Wool Growers Association
 405 Sansome Street, San Francisco, U. S. A.

Inventor and sole maker—Dr. N. Burdizzo, Box 400, Turin, Italy.

I do not know how the other sheepmen of this section feel about it.

Very few loans on sheep are made by local bankers, but the common rate of interest charged is 10 per cent.

Joseph Brown

Clifton

We have had more misty and damp weather during the past few weeks than in years past—only a very few days of sunshine. On account of this damp weather we have had heavier losses in lambs and heavier feeding expense. No alfalfa hay is raised here; we use Johnson grass which is costing from \$12 to \$14 a ton.

Bosque County's flocks are largely on farms, but there are still a number of ranches stocked with sheep, mostly fine wools. Nearly all of the ewe lambs are being kept each year.

Opinion here does not favor the special tax for a bounty on coyotes and other wild animals. We prefer to have the work handled as it is now. The Biological Survey has only been working in our section for the past eighteen months, but excellent results have been obtained. There are very few red wolves and bobcats left and no coyotes.

Wool growers favor the pooling plan for selling their wool clips.

Banks will loan up to 85 per cent of the value of bred ewes in this section, interest rate being 10 per cent.

F. K. Bradstreet

**WYOMING FEEDER LAMBS
 AT \$12.50**

The following dispatch from Rock Springs, Wyoming, is taken from the Salt Lake Tribune:

"The biggest spring lamb deal ever made here was closed Thursday when Bond & Company, Albuquerque, N. M., bought every available 'this year's' wether lamb for October delivery at 12.5 cents a pound, with an estimated quota of 75,000 wether lambs. This practically includes all wether lambs in the 100-mile square area comprising the Rock Springs district. Price is said to be 1 cent higher than any other Wyoming district received."

The sale was conducted direct with the sheep association members."

Letter From a Shepherd to His Pal

Mrs. Anson Marble Farleigh's Diary, continued.

For one long intolerable tense moment my heart ceased to beat. I had not the slightest doubt that Henri DeWalt would commit instant murder and that Ern Hastings would be his immediate next victim. Then I saw Ern shift his body ever so slightly so as to turn his side to the menace of that gun and thus reduce the risk of being hit; also, I noticed that he was watching Henri DeWalt's trigger finger with the alertness of a hawk. Suddenly I realized what he was about to do. I had read of such wild doings in western stories, but never, in my dreams, had it occurred to me that I, who had led a sheltered woman's life, should be called upon to be an eyewitness to such a scene. For it was Ern's intention to try and dodge the moment that trigger was pulled and then, provided this first step of his maneuver were successful, to leap upon his adversary and struggle for the possession of that gun.

I must do something to stop this murderous adventure. There was no need of bloodshed. Here was a man risking his life—for what? A plate of bacon and eggs! Yet what could I do? Then, like an inspiration, it occurred to me that the way to handle a mad person is to humor him.

With that I laughed out loud, in as careless a tone as I could muster. "Don't act foolish," I admonished Ern. "You know very well that Mr. DeWalt is quite right—you shouldn't eat just before your operation."

At the same time I deliberately winked my eye. Ern caught the idea and acted upon it. "Oh, all right," he said, speaking carelessly, "if you think I'd better not take on a feed I'll wait. Just you hurry along with your eats so we can have that there consultation. I want to be in on that."

He walked over to a corner of the room and sat down on a stool, and Henri DeWalt laid his gun down beside his plate. "I beg your pardon," he bowed to me. "I'm going to make a success of this operation, and I don't want to overlook

any trifles. When your patient is clogged up with food it is next to impossible to obtain good results. May I warm your coffee a bit?"

"Please," I agreed, feeling much relieved. "You are quite right about this food question. When I was head nurse at John Hopkins we used to—er—empty our patients before we—you understand?"

"Perfectly," Henri DeWalt answered with a show of friendly animation. "So you are a nurse? That is a most happy coincidence. How long were you at John Hopkins?"

"Three years," I lied.

Then Ern spoke up. "You're overlooking your best bet in this operation of mine."

Henri DeWalt looked up in surprise. "How so?" he asked, stirring his coffee in the meantime. "And what do you know about operations?"

"Plenty." Ern's tone carried conviction. "Me, I graduated at—" he studied a moment—"Rochester. I'm a veterinary. I took medicine—I mean, I studied same—but in the end I switched to livestock."

Henri DeWalt had grown thoughtful. "Rochester—I was there," he mused, his face beset with a flood of memories. "Yes, indeed—Rochester! But I didn't know they had a veterinary school there."

"Yeah, we wasn't allowed to mix with the patients much," Ern hastily explained. "I reckon you was mostly upstairs. If you'd ever come down into the basement you'd got into my department."

I thought Henri DeWalt looked a little bewildered. Secretly I admired Ern's ability to adjust himself to the opportunity so readily. "There's one thing we worked on," he then went on, "and that had a lot to do with operations."

Henri DeWalt laid down his knife and fork. He was genuinely interested. "Yes?" he asked. "And what was that?"

"We never operated there except in the light of the moon. And we never lost a critter." Ern stopped impressively.

"In the light of the moon?" Henri DeWalt was evidently trying hard to get

ROMNEYS

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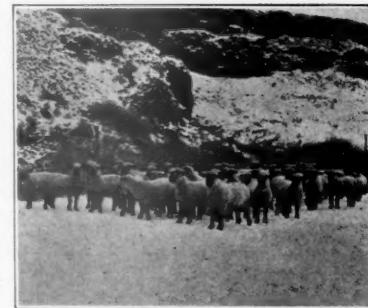
University of California and

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Hardy, well grown 1928 Ram Lambs in the pink of condition, and of value in any flock.

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1929 Offerings:

300 Yearling Rams

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300 Ram Lambs

Limited Number of Stud Rams

J. NEBEKER & SONS

STOCKTON, UTAH

SHEEP FOR SALE

We can furnish aged ewes with March black-face lambs for May delivery, and some right good yearling and two-year-old ewes, also a bunch or two of extra good ewes of mixed ages.

DAYBELL SHEEP COMPANY
PROVO, UTAH

HAMPSHIRE

We have for sale this season:
700 head of yearling rams
Several cars of big ram lambs
Also several cars of ewes

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Breeders of Purebred and Registered
Hampshire Sheep
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Idaho has more good Hampshire flocks than any other state.

FINCH stud rams more than any others are used as flock headers among Idaho Hampshire flocks.

THE REASON:
QUALITY Without Overfitting
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POLLED RAMBOUILLETS

Sold out for this season, but will have a lot of extra good rams in 1929.

W. S. HANSEN COMPANY
WYNN S. HANSEN, Mgr.
Collinston, Utah

his bearings. "What has the moon got to do with operations?"

"What has it got to do with operations?" Ern seemed shocked at the question. "Why it's got plenty to do with it. I should say so! Why, don't you know that ninety per cent of operations in the dark of the moon turn out fatal? Take this here case of mine now. You'd have ten times the chance of making it a success if you'd wait about three days and have the moon on your side."

Henri DeWalt listened open-mouthed. "I don't quite understand," he admitted.

"Of course you don't," Ern came back at him. "You learned your stuff only from the books. If you'd ever come down in the basement at Hopsons—I mean Rochester—you'd picked up a lot of tips that the boys working upstairs never got wise to. In the light of the moon—that's when things grow. Ask any farmer. He plants his spuds only when the moon is filling. And his corn. It's a big subject. There's more people born in the light of the moon—and most of 'em die when it's dark."

I had finished eating. Henri DeWalt sat with his hands folded over his plate, deep in thought. "Well—there may be something to what you say there—come and sit down. I'll fix you a plate of bacon and eggs. We'll wait two days with the operation—that should give you the benefit of a fresh new moon."

Thus our immediate danger was averted. That night we were handcuffed again and thrust into that prison-like room. And again I spent a restless night, with Ern waking up in hot pursuit of horses, or fighting imaginary beasts of the forest. Perhaps this is a common ailment among men who follow this business of tending sheep. If so, I certainly feel genuinely sorry for their wives. They seem to be—it Ern is a fair example—subject to a sort of somnambulistic insanity that is quite beyond reach of the power of suggestion to cure.

I am writing these memoirs during the daytime, but always under the dire threat of that madman's gun. Today I heard

the baying of hounds—perhaps they are looking for us. But they must hurry, for tomorrow night the New Moon swings into the sky—and then this mad butchery may not be further delayable. Where are my friends? Where is Richard Wormwood and Doctor Kartoff? Pray Heaven that they may not be too late.

Again I hear the distant baying of hounds.

**LAMB PRODUCTION CONTEST
IN MINNESOTA**

Minnesota's lamb production contest, organized a year ago by the agricultural extension service of the university, has been received with so much favor that entries are already being made for the second year and college stations in a half dozen states, including one in the far East and one in the South, have asked for full particulars with a view to launching contests in their own territory.

Any Minnesota sheep raiser having twenty-five or more ewes giving birth to lambs between March 1 and May 31 can enter the contest, provided entries are made before any of the ewes have lambed. Records must be kept of the kind and amount of feed used and the wool produced. The contest will close for each lot of lambs when the average age of 135 days has been reached.

Awards will be based invariably on the average number of pounds of lamb produced per ewe within the feeding period. A flockmaster may enter any one of three classes, the first for flocks containing 25 to 50 ewes, the second for flocks of 51 to 100, and the third for flocks of 101 or more ewes. The champion flock will be selected from the winners of the three classes.

Liberal cash prizes for the top three in each class at least will be given by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association. Efficiency of management, character of records kept, gains made, and the degree of success of the enterprise will be considered by the committee in making the awards.

HEAVY LAMBS ON THIS WINTER'S MARKET

Last fall feeders avoided big lambs in restocking. As the pendulum always swings to an extreme in either direction, so this discrimination was overdone, the result being that this winter lambs carrying such weight as heretofore has invited a penalty of 10 cents per hundredweight for every added pound, sold on a parity with popular weights under normal supply conditions. At Denver long strings of 91 to 101-pound lambs sold at the top or \$15.90, taking February 22 as an example. Theoretically a 91-pound lamb should be worth 75 cents per hundredweight more than a 100-pounder on the sliding scale basis heretofore enforced, and considered a standard selling basis at that market. Denver sales show weights running from 82 to 102 pounds selling on a parity this winter. At Chicago overweights have been within 25 cents of the top right along, condition being equal. This may be construed as meaning merely that heavy lamb being scarce it has not been hampered in the retailing process, as a certain element likes weight, or it may mean that big cuts are going over the block with less resistance.

It is a fallacy that a big lamb is always a fat one. In fact if such a rule exists it has been reversed this year, much of the weighty stuff lacking thick fat. Heavy lamb action this winter does not warrant feeders in going tumultuously to that type next fall as the line between excess and deficiency is finely drawn and a "few too many" condition may easily develop. To a considerable extent big lamb performance at the market this year has reflected feed cost and high lamb prices, shortening the route between feedlot and market. When feed is cheap or even reasonable in cost and lamb prices are not attractive there is always incentive to continue the feeding period, with the logical result that killers get a larger percentage of 95 to 100-pound lambs, and a sprinkling at heavier weights. In a measure a winter surplus of heavy lambs reflects feed conditions on the summer range, but, almost invariably, when heavies find a receptive market during a winter season it is considered a bid by



The Better Ewe Flock

SOLANO CORRIE DALE RANCH
R. W. JICKLING—Elmira, Calif.

FOR SALE BY OWNERS

Sheep Ranch and Cattle Ranch, both located in Beaverhead County, Southwestern Montana, largest livestock county in Montana. Forest permits for summer grazing of stock. Ranches offered with or without livestock.

Further particulars upon request.

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We produce
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Briggs 1144—Yearling Rambouillet Ewe. Grand Champion Rambouillet Ewe at California State Fair, 1927.

A choice lot
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"Senator"—Bullard Bros.' Yearling Rambouillet Ram—Reserve Champion Ram of the 1928 Chicago International Live Stock Show.

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18,000 head good, big, smooth type, well bred Rambouillet yearling ewes for sale out of the wool—June 1st delivery.

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SHEEP

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We believe that the big ram with a long staple fleece that has density and fineness and is free from body wrinkles and kemp is the ideal ram for the range.

If that is the kind of Rambouillet ram you like, see ours.

**PUREBRED RANGE RAMS
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Small orders or carload lots

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Breeders of Rambouillet Show Sheep
We do not feature a show flock, but we win wherever we show.

April, 1926—We trucked 6 head to Salt Lake show and won three firsts out of four that we competed for.

September, 1928—We trucked 8 head to Sanpete County show and won three firsts out of five we competed for.

**Our Winnings in Southern Utah
Rambouillet Shows:**

1928—Three firsts; five seconds, three thirds.

1927—Nine firsts, five seconds, two thirds, two grand champions.

1926—Six firsts, five seconds, three thirds, one grand champion.

**IF YOU LIKE FINE WHITE LONG
STAPLE CRIMPY WOOL, GOOD
HEAVY BONE, LEGS SET WELL
APART, STRONG BACKS: WE
GROW THAT KIND.**

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MANTI LIVE STOCK COMPANY

MANTI, UTAH
Founded in 1907 From Best Rambouillet Flocks in America



BREEDERS OF RAMBOUILLET SHEEP

the trade for that kind at the corresponding following season and it is usually a bad hunch. This winter they performed well because the stage was not crowded.

J. E. Poole

SHEEP DAY AT WISCONSIN

The great interest in sheep in Wisconsin is indicated by the fact that at 9:00 o'clock Monday morning, February 4, following some very bad weather, 125 farmers gathered at the sheep barn at the University to hear Professor Bohstedt report on lamb feeding work now in progress there. This work is on methods of self feeding lambs and although the test is not yet completed, it aroused a great deal of interest among the large group of feeders and breeders present.

Following Mr. Bohstedt, Mr. Sam Anglin of the Producers Commission Company of Chicago gave a very interesting and instructive explanation and demonstration of market classes and grades, emphasizing the necessity of selecting lambs of the correct type and selling the lambs properly finished and of desirable weight.

At noon the meeting was transferred to the Park Hotel where following a lamb dinner, there was a demonstration of methods of preparing lamb carcasses for market. This work was done by Mr. Neesvig of the Madison Packing Company, and was very similar to the work being done by Mr. Hartzell under the direction of the National Meat Board and National Wool Growers Association.

Following a general discussion as to the needs and methods of promoting interest in sheep and to serve effectively the present sheep farmers, it was decided that in addition to the experimental work being done at the University, the Sheep Breeders Association, in cooperation with the extension division, would undertake three major lines of work:

1—Promote sheep clubs among club members.

2—Secure demonstrators to furnish records of costs and profits with farm flocks.

3—Inaugurate a flock production campaign based on percentage of lambs raised and weight of lambs. The details of this latter will be worked out later.

Mr. Charles Snyder of the Drovers

Journal, Chicago, Illinois, was the principal speaker at the afternoon program. Mr. Snyder outlined the general livestock situation with special emphasis on the present condition and trend in market lamb production.

The program outlined above will be carried out under the direction of Mr. James Lacey, in charge of animal husbandry extension work at the University of Wisconsin.

STATUS OF REINDEER MEAT MADE PUBLIC BY FEDERAL COMMITTEE

A statement on the status of reindeer meat under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, by a joint committee of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture on the reindeer industry of Alaska, was made public February 8. The statement was prepared to make clear to state and municipal health officers, conservation and game commissioners, and the general public that reindeer are not included in the Federal Meat Inspection Act, but may be received into the United States and shipped interstate, and that when marked for identification they may be received and handled in federally inspected plants. The statement was made for the joint committee by a subcommittee, consisting of Paul G. Redington, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey; Dr. J. R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry; and Dr. William Hamilton, assistant chief of the Alaska division of the Bureau of Education. Following is the full text of the statement:

Washington, D. C.,
February 8, 1929

For the Information of State and Municipal Health Officers, State Conservation Commissioners, Fish and Game Commissions, and for the Information of the General Public.

The reindeer industry of Alaska was initiated by the federal government in 1891 and during the decade of 1892-1902, 1,280 reindeer were imported from Siberia. The herds now number more than 500,000 animals. Congress now appropriates money each year for the development of the industry, and this money is expended under the direction of the Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture.

Alaska now maintains large herds of reindeer, and reindeer meat and by-products are

being shipped into the United States each year by the Bureau of Education and private owners.

Reindeer are not included in the Federal Meat Inspection Act, but reindeer meat may be received into the United States and be shipped interstate, and when marked for identification may be received and handled as such in federally inspected plants. It may also be used in the preparation of U. S. inspected and passed meat and meat food products when such articles are appropriately labeled.

The government has maintained experimental stations in Alaska and keeps in touch with the main herds of reindeer. No contagious disease has ever been encountered and no reason has appeared why the sale or use of reindeer meat should require federal, state, or municipal health inspection for the detection of disease. However, state or municipal

inspection may be appropriate to determine whether the reindeer meat may have become spoiled due to improper storage or handling. The reindeer has for many centuries been a domesticated animal and not subject to game laws.

For the Joint Committ:

PAUL G. REDINGTON,
Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Department of Agriculture.

J. R. MOHLER,
Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry,
Department of Agriculture.

WILLIAM HAMILTON,
Assistant Chief, Alaska Division,
Bureau of Education, Department
of the Interior.

Subcommittee



**Long Distance Rates
Reduced**

A total of more than \$5,000,000 will be saved annually by the American telephone-using public as a result of the nation-wide reduction in Long Distance rates, which became effective February 1. Telephone users in the territory served by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company will profit substantially by this third reduction in less than three years. Rates are lower for person-to-person calls, as well as for station-to-station calls.

*"Traveling" by Telephone
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DELAINE MERINOS
BIG SMOOTH ONES
The Ideal Wool and Mutton Combination
RAMS or EWES
One or a Carload—Shipped Anywhere on Approval
FRANK H. RUSSELL, WAKEMAN, OHIO

Hotel Utah
SALT LAKE CITY
ROOMS WITHOUT BATH
\$2.50 PER DAY
WITH BATH \$3.00 AND UP.
The very best of everything at sensible prices"

JUNIOR SHEEP PROJECT

Minnesota's advanced junior sheep project is away to a fine start for its second year. W. E. Morris of University Farm, a livestock specialist, in cooperation with county agents and club leaders,

launched the work a year ago and will be in personal charge this year. The project was organized for 4-H club boys and girls between the ages of 18 and 24.

"There will be many more entrymen this year than last," says Mr. Morris. "Six entries have been received from Pennington County, five from Stevens County, and others from Rock, Martin, and Kittson counties. Before the lists are closed there will be enrollments from a large number of counties."

Juniors entering this project must own, feed, and manage a flock of ten ewes each, either bred by them last fall or purchased as bred ewes before lambing in the spring. Feed records must be kept and reported to county agents, and the lambs weighed when their average age is 150 days. Awards are based on the total weight of lambs produced in that time, the percentage of lambs raised, and record of feed and cost. Last year's contest was won by Marvin Nelson, farm boy of Cyrus, Pope County.

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association will again draw upon its funds, granted by the legislature, for cash prizes for the winners.



CULLEN HOTEL

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
J. R. YOUNG, Mgr.

Headquarters for Sheepmen

More Sheep bought and sold in the Cullen Hotel than in any hotel in the United States.

Rates \$1.00 and up

Pride in the Job

During 1928 the railroads established their greatest records in operating efficiency and economy.

In the face of reduced traffic and increased wages the railroads last year made five new outstanding operating records:

In proportion to the amount of traffic hauled, fewer trains and locomotives were required in 1928 than ever before.

The average load per train was the highest ever reported.

The distance traveled each day per freight train averaged more than 307 miles, an increase of approximately 20 per cent over that for 1923. The number of tons of freight moved one mile by a train per hour was greater in 1928 than ever before.

Freight was handled with the greatest conservation of fuel ever reported.

This performance record has been largely brought about by pride in service and equipment. Capital expenditures made last year for new equipment, additions and betterments amounted to \$650,000,000 which assisted materially in establishing the new efficiency records.

Despite exceedingly heavy movement of grain and grain products as well as of perishable traffic which was the heaviest in railroad history, traffic demands last year were more promptly met than ever before and the service was of the highest character ever afforded the public.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC

NORTH DAKOTA WOOL GROWERS ORGANIZE POOL

The organization of a wool pool at Dickinson, N. D. was recently announced in a newsletter issued by the Dickinson-Slope Wool Growers:

Forty-two representative wool growers from western North Dakota attended a meeting held in the club rooms of the First National Bank Building in Dickinson, Saturday, February 9, and signed for membership in the 1929 Dickinson-Slope Wool pool. Paul W. Mann, assistant cashier of the First National Bank, who was instrumental in organizing and establishing the 1928 pool, was continued in charge as manager. Members of the executive committee named were Peter Braun, Dickinson; Ray Gress, Gladstone; Herman Leutz, Taylor; Lee Hoff, Richardson, and Alex Monte, Belfield.

A. J. Dexter, development agent for the Northern Pacific Railway, was present and addressed the meeting from a standpoint of ten years' experience with wool pools and the handling of wool. Mr. Dexter stressed the necessity on the part of growers of joining the pool and sticking to it if they hoped to realize returns from their sheep. He also emphasized the selling advantages of the large pool as compared with the lesser returns from the smaller pools.

A similar meeting was held at Hebron, February 13, with eighteen growers in attendance. Mr. Dexter also spoke at this meeting along the same line.

1600 RAMS

AT PUBLIC AUCTION

9th Annual

California Ram Sale State Fair Grounds, Sacramento

May 21-22-23

IN LOTS TO SUIT

900 Hampshires

150 Shropshires

155 Suffolk-Hampshires

100 Romeldales

50 Corriedales

250 Rambouilletts

ALSO—Suffolks, Romneys, Australian Merinos,
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